WCCC opens new center

Westmoreland County Community College opened its new Fayette County Education Center in Uniontown to rave reviews on Thursday. **7A**

THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Pens win 8th straight

Goalie Ty Conklin and the rest of the Pittsburgh Penguins kept two positive streaks going, and stopped a bad one in the process. **1B**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2008 | RELEVANT, RELIABLE | WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM | 50¢

INSIDE TODAY

Wecht trial starts

Jury selection got under way Thursday for the federal corruption trial of former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril Wecht. **3A**

SPORTS

Monessen rolls

The undefeated Monessen girls' basketball team continued its winning ways Thursday, knocking off Serra Catholic, 45-31. **1B**

DEATHS

- Rose Bertovich, 93, Bentleyville
- Linda Danilchak, 58, Ellsworth
- Brenda Holloway, 52, San Diego, Calif., formerly of Donora
- Cecelia A. "Sally" Hough, 73, Speers Hill (Charleroi)
- George J. Kickel, 79, Donora
- John E. Matty Sr., 86, Star Junction
- John Mastro, 81, Donora
- Russell W. Pearce, 93, formerly of Charleroi
- Olga Raynal, 91, formerly of West Newton and Donora
- Mildred R. Tempest, 92, Monongahela
- Minnie Yarbrough, 93, Belle Vernon

Page 4A

WEATHER

Tonight Cloudy 33°

Saturday Partly cloudy 43°

Page 2A

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Celebrity Cipher	5B
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Comics	4B
Dear Abby	8A
Deaths	4A
Seniors	9A
Lottery	5A
News Roundups	5A
Opinion	6A
Sports	1-3B
Television	8A

Two sections, 18 Pages

TOMORROW

Valley Food

Hungry? Check out Valley Food, which appears each Saturday in *The Valley Independent*.

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Paterra pushes for more cops

Charleroi mayor renews call to increase the size of the Magic City's police department in the wake of weekend murder.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

CHARLEROI - As the Magic City deals with a homicide in its community, Mayor Frank Paterra on Thursday reiterated his request that council prioritize the borough budget to increase the size of the police department.

Not commenting directly to Paterra's request, board members instead took time during their monthly meeting to praise the efforts of the police department and other agencies for making a quick arrest in the weekend murder.

"This is difficult to state, but we need to make serious cuts in the budget and give me a complement of police officers to fight the war on drugs," Paterra said.

Paterra said the $2,358,840 budget includes $738,492 for police. He asked council to increase the budget for police to $1,179,420 - 50 percent of the total spending plan.

Paterra said the department consists of five full-time officers and a superintendent. He said the borough had 12 full-time officers and a chief in 1981 and nine officers and a chief as recently as 1996.

"The public demands that our community be secured," Paterra said. "Our senior citizens and our children must be protected from the drug community. I want all illegal drugs out of Charleroi and Speers.

"I appeal to all of you to consider my requests. I know this is difficult and people will be laid off and jobs will be eliminated, but we must attack this cancer that plaques our community in the form of illegal drugs."

No members of council responded to his request during or after Paterra spoke.

But they eventually took turns praising authorities for the way the investigation into the murder of Amanda Faux was handled.

Her nude body was found Sunday evening in a dumpster in an alley near the apartment she moved into the previous day with her boyfriend, Joseph John Natale.

Natale, 28, of 213 Fifth St., Apt. 3G, was charged Tuesday with one count each of criminal homicide, aggravated assault and abuse of a corpse.

Natale surrendered to state police Tuesday evening. His father, an Elizabeth resident, drove him to the barracks in Rostraver Township.

Natale is being held in the Washington County Correctional Facility without bond.

Resident Darlene Pennline told council that the mayor and some residents warned them

(See PATERRA, Page 2A)

Associated Press

Carol Nicklaus is a fourth-generation pretzel maker for Hammond's Pretzel Bakery, a 20-employee Lancaster-based company that sells about 300,000 pounds of pretzels each year. Nicklaus handles the office work for the company started in 1931, but never learned to make the sourdough pretzels from the secret recipe perfected by her great-grandfather, grandfather and father.

Snacks popular at Farm Show

Snacks and other foods manufactured in Pennsylvania are among the favorite attractions at the annual exposition that ends today.

By ROBIN ACTON
For The Valley Independent
racton@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG - Bob Stahl outlines his marketing strategy from a folding canvas director's chair in his booth at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where thousands of people cluster in front of product display tables for free bites of beef jerky, chocolate, pretzels and cheese.

Stahl wants the 69-cent Club Sandwich - a mouth-watering concoction made from creamy peanut butter sandwiched between two crackers and smothered in chocolate - to be the most popular candy bar in Pottsville, the headquarters of his 12-employee company, Costas Candy.

Then, he wants that distinction throughout Schuylkill County, and after that, he wants to expand the circle to take in surrounding counties and spread across the state.

"It's very hard to do that as a small company, so that's why I'm here," Stahl said, scanning the denim- and flannel-clad crowd. "You're not going to find this on your pillow at the Hilton Hotel like a luxury chocolate. You're going to find it in your lunch box.

"These are my people."

Snacks and other foods manufactured in Pennsylvania are among the favorite attractions this week at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, an annual exposition that showcases agriculture, the state's leading industry. More than 400,000 people are expected to visit the event that features hundreds of homegrown products, livestock, entertainment, youth competitions and exhibitions.

Stahl, a former director of product development for Hershey Foods, understands from more than 30 years of experience in the candy business that whether it's chips, crackers or chocolate, people love their goodies in Pennsylvania.

"Hershey and the Mars Candy Co. started it, probably because there's a lot of dairy products available. Pennsylvania has a lot of agricultural diversity, but it seems as though chocolate and snacks are what we do best," he said.

Although the Keystone State is known jokingly as the "snack food capital of the world," there are statistics to prove it.

(See FARM SHOW, Page 2A)

Donora approves extra fee for sewers

Annual $20 surcharge will help pay for future repairs.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

DONORA - Because of the antiquated condition of the borough's sewer lines, residents will be assessed a $20 annual surcharge to help pay for future maintenance and repairs.

At Thursday's meeting of borough council, Councilman Jason Menendez said that the sewer system, which is approximately 110 years old, is deteriorating and in great need of repairs and updating.

However, the borough does not have the money needed to pay for such repairs.

Currently the sewer lines are owned by the borough, but the sewage is treated by the Mon Valley Sewage Authority.

A similar situation exists in Monessen.

The two communities have been in negotiations with the sewage authority to come up with a way to take care of the system, up to and including having the authority take over ownership.

Menendez said that the surcharge was agreed upon by Donora council. Monessen officials still are considering the fee. A $5 cost will be added to each quarterly bill for residents to cover the surcharge.

"This is the first step in a long process in dealing with the sewer issue and continuing negotiations with Mon Valley Sewage," Menendez said.

"We hope that this fee agreed upon will not be too much of a burden on the residents of Donora and Monessen while we also understand that any surcharge is too much."

Menendez noted that it is a rather unusual situation that exists with the borough and Monessen each owning the sewer lines and having the sewage authority maintaining them.

"There are escalating costs and escalating problems with the lines, which are very old and in dire need of being repaired," Menendez said.

Assessment position perks quite appealing

Members of Westmoreland County's Board of Assessment Appeals make $51,000 per year and can show up for work as often or as seldom as they like.

By RICH CHOLODOFSKY
For The Valley Independent
rcholodofsky@tribweb.com

Members of Westmoreland County's Board of Assessment Appeals - who make more than $51,000 a year - can show up for work as often or as seldom as they like.

And two returning members of the board took full advantage of that policy last year, according to records obtained by the Tribune-Review.

Records indicate long-time board member John Wilt took nearly 12 weeks of paid vacation in 2007, and board Chairwoman Barbara Moffe took more than eight weeks.

Ousted board member Deborah Chiado, the lone Republican who was fired by county commissioners this week, took about five weeks of vacation last year, records show.

The board members are appointed by county commissioners to four-year terms and have the same benefits as elected officials, with no limit on vacation and sick days, Moffe said.

But they stand in sharp contrast to their seven part-time counterparts in Allegheny County, who each were paid up to $9,000 a year to handle more than 7,000 cases, nearly six times more than the number of appeals Westmoreland County board members handled. The Allegheny County board members get no paid vacation and are compensated based on the number of meetings they attend, with 27 meetings scheduled for 2008.

Allegheny County paid about $200,000 last year for case reviewers and hearing officers, who investigate assessment appeals and hear evidence, said Mike Suley, the manager of the Office of Property Assessments.

Westmoreland County Commissioner Tom Balya said he has no problem with the setup.

"We don't look at their vacation time. As far as

(See ASSESSMENT, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Paterra (FROM PAGE ONE)

that, if more police were not added to the department, something like the homicide would occur in Charleroi.

But Council President Mark Alterici called Faux death "an isolated case," and told Pennline using the girl's death as a "soapbox" is wrong.

"We trying to work with the mayor," Alterici said, turning toward Paterra as he spoke.

Later in the meeting, council member Nancy Ellis acknowledged "the great job" Charleroi police as well as various other agencies did in the investigation that culminated in an arrest just two days after the body was discovered.

"I think we have a great police department and I think they're doing a great job," Ellis said.

She thanked Det. Lt. Jim Disanti for the hours he put into the investigation.

Councilman Ken Laird also recognized Disanti.

Police Superintendent Mike Matyas recognized the efforts of part-time officers Jamen Walker and Jamie Holland in the hours right after the body was discovered. Councilman Jerry Jericho also commended Disanti.

Council would later accept Disanti's resignation from the force for retirement, effective July 5.

In other business, council approved an application for a grant from the new Washington County Local Share Account, developed from the proceeds for gaming. Charleroi Community Development Corporation member Adele Hopkins said the organization hopes to use the grant to complete phase II of the Meadowcrest housing development.

Council also appointed Larry P. Celaschi to a five-year term on the water authority and Terry Newstrom to a five-year term to the planning commission.

The board accepted the resignation of Don Ruschak from the Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority Board. Applications for this position will be accepted until noon Feb. 6.

The board approved advertising for bids to complete the 10th Street stormwater separation project.

Borough Manager Bob Hogdson said borough residents will not be assessed any additional fees for the cost of that work.

Resident Greg Spada told council he has been bitten twice and harassed on other occasions by pit bulldogs he said are roaming the community.

Matyas vowed to look into the problem and said he previously cited a resident for not controlling a pit bull.

He said that resident has since left the community.

The superintendent offered to walk the community with Spada to search for any pit bulls running loose.

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2008 Spring Term

Penn State
Selected college credit courses
- courses begin January 14th

Evening certificate programs
- Real Estate Salesperson - course begins March 19th
- Effective Supervision Series - course begins March 4th

California University
Daytime certificate program
- Uniform Construction Code Official Training – course begins February 5th (Distance-learning course)

Westmoreland County Community College
Evening credit course and certificate program
- Electronics Engineering Program – course begins March 10

Capital Communications Inc.
Business Performance Seminars
– seminars begin March 10

Courses offered at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, Speers. For more information on MVCEC sponsored courses visit http://www.MVCEC.org

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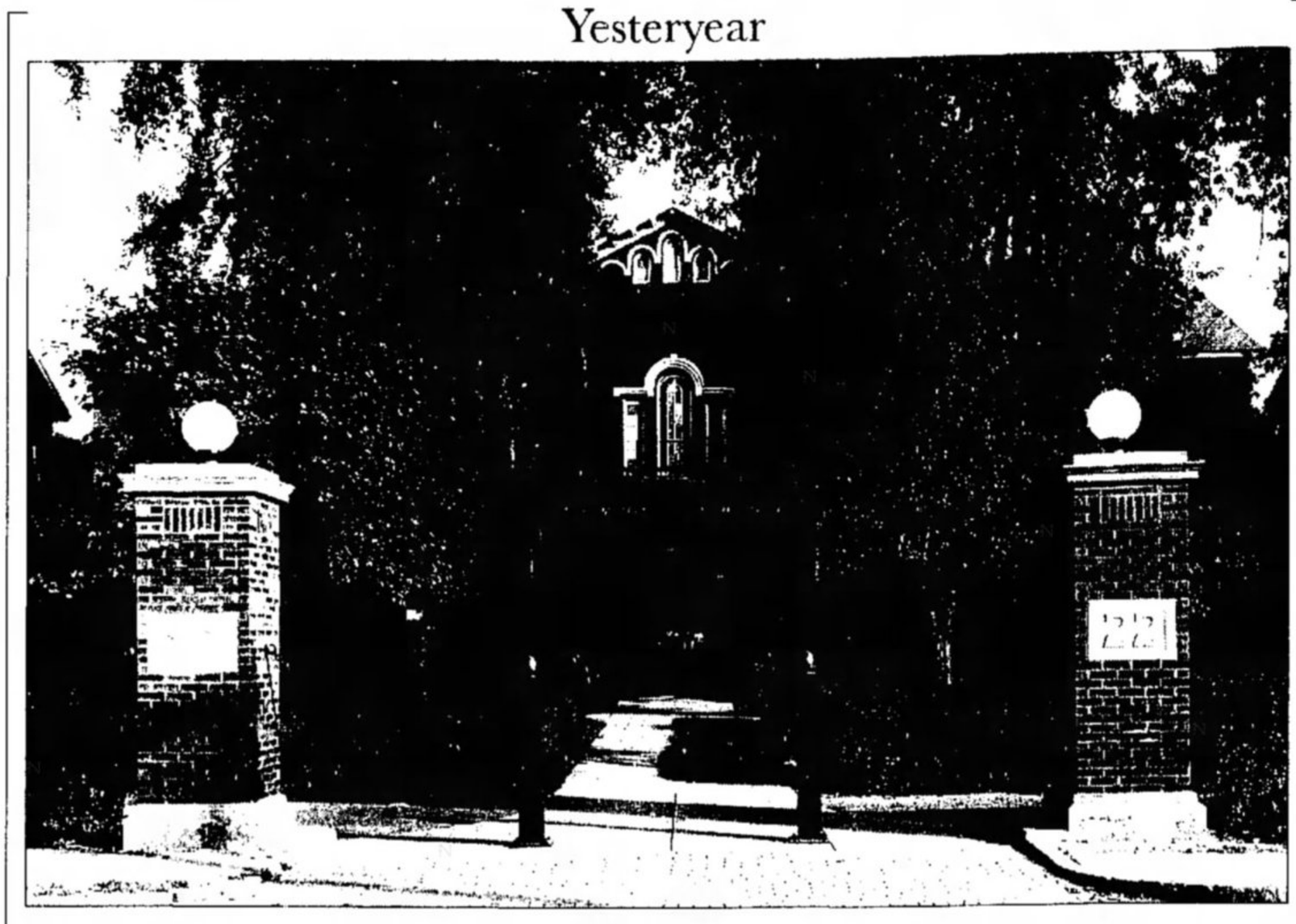
Yesteryear



The original entrance to Old Main, one of California University's original buildings, is shown in this undated picture. The cornerstones at the entrance indicate 1922.
If you have a good oldtime photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
High 43	High 42	High 38	High 32	High 37
Low 28	Low 28	Low 22	Low 23	Low 22

Farm Show (FROM PAGE ONE)

The Food Marketing Cooperative of Pennsylvania reports that the state -- where 2,300 food companies have headquarters -- leads the nation in total snack food sales by generating $5.1 billion annually. The state produces more pretzels and potato chips annually than any other, according to the state Bureau of Market Development.

Stahl and many of the food producers who have brought their wares to the show are part of the PA Preferred program, which identifies locally grown or processed items that meet strict food safety standards.

Many cater to local markets, while others are names familiar to everyone's table - Musselman's Apple Sauce, Pennsylvania Dutchman mushrooms, Snyder's potato chips, Meadowland Farms beef, Hatfield hams, Lucky Leaf apple juice.

Those and other agricultural products are pushing Pennsylvania to the forefront in many areas, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

The state leads the nation in mushroom production, with 465 million pounds harvested annually. It ranks first in the number of Christmas tree farms, with 2,164, and first in the production of hardwood lumber, with 1.1 billion board-feet per year.

Meat, poultry and fish industries generate more than $4.3 million in sales annually in Pennsylvania, which ranks third in egg production, with 6.75 billion eggs, and fifth for trout harvesting, with 1.68 million pounds processed each year.

To the state's producers, the numbers are a source of pride as they talk with show visitors.

"Our meats are produced in Pennsylvania and sold fresh here," said Eric Haman, a spokesman for Hatfield Quality Meats, a firm that employs 1,600 people at its headquarters about 30 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

"We have a lot to do with the 4-H and Future Farmers of America. We're local and we try to give back to them by supporting them."

Many of the PA Preferred growers say they enjoy the show because they participated in 4-H and other agricultural groups as children.

Some are fourth- and fifth-generation farmers and food producers.

Carol Nicklaus is a fourth-generation pretzel maker for Hammond's Pretzel Bakery, a 20-employee Lancaster company that sells about 300,000 pounds of pretzels each year.

Well, not exactly.

Nicklaus handles the office work for the company started in 1931, but never learned to make the sourdough pretzels from the secret recipe perfected by her great-grandfather, grandfather and father.

"I can't make them. My kids make pretzels and my husband makes them, but I've always been too busy doing other things," said Nicklaus, who is selling pretzels in large orange and green tins for her fourth year at the Farm Show.

"Right now, the fifth generation -- my son and daughter -- are taking over the business."

That being the case, she said, Hammond's will remain small, with sales dedicated to a regional market in Lancaster and York counties and mail orders.

Although the state Department of Agriculture reports that agricultural exports are increasing each year, it appears that often what is made in Pennsylvania tends to stay in Pennsylvania.

Beekeeper Brenda Aucker, a spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania State Beekeeper's Association, said most of the honey producers across the state cater to local markets and sell their products - clover, wildflower and buckwheat honey, soaps, candles and lip balms - at roadside stands and farmers markets.

"Very little is exported. The majority of honey produced here stays here," she said.

Assessment (FROM PAGE ONE)

I'm concerned, they're not required to document their vacation. As far as I know there is no problem with them conducting hearings. I think we've got capable people," Balya said.

But Barry Kauffman, executive director of Common Cause of Pennsylvania, said, "Citizens have a right to accountability, especially when they (board members) are reimbursed generously."

"It's not unreasonable for the people of Westmoreland County to demand standard working hours and performance standards. I'm kind of surprised they aren't required," Kauffman said.

The assessment board is required to meet at least six times a year to pass judgment on properties seeking exemptions from paying taxes.

The board also is required to conduct hearings on property assessment appeals.

Those are conducted throughout September and October. Westmoreland County last conducted a countywide reassessment in 1972.

Wilt, who last year recorded 59 vacation days, said his work schedule was justified, in part because his salary was cut in 2000.

"I had to take a pay cut in 2000. Because of that, I take more vacation," said Wilt, an assessment board member since 1983.

Until 2000, county policy limited vacation and sick days for assessment board members. Time off was determined by years of service.

But that year, county commissioners decided the board members no longer were traditional county employees subject to the policies governing those workers.

As a result, board members were granted unlimited vacation time and sick leave. They receive traditional county medical and retirement benefits.

Wilt said his salary, which at the time was in the mid-$50,000 range, was cut to about $45,000.

Wilt took off 53 days in 2002; 58 in 2003; 51 in 2004; 33 in 2005; and 50 in 2006.

Records indicate Moffe took 41 vacation days last year and averaged about 40 days off over the last six years.

But Wilt said he gives 100 percent when on the job.

"It's up to your personal traits and integrity to be on the job when you have to be on the job," Wilt said. "I do not abuse it."

There are no set criteria for selecting board members, but all three members worked in the county assessment office.

Moffe said board members are required to spend a lot of personal time working on cases. She said she is out of the office a good portion of the year viewing properties. She could not document her time on site visits.

"At least one of our three board members is always here. We're not mandated to be here. My job is to make sure we're here for the appeals system," Moffe said.

Under state law, counties such as Westmoreland are mandated to appoint assessment board members to hear appeal cases. Those board members do not have to serve full time, but they must be independent from the county commissioners.

But all three board members have political ties to the Democratic county commissioners, Balya and Tom Ceraso.

Wilt, a longtime Democratic supporter, last year donated $200 to Balya's campaign. Newly appointed board member William Ferraro gave more than $800 in the last year to Ceraso's and Balya's re-election bids. Moffe gave $325 to the Democrats' campaign. Ousted board member Chiado gave $325 to Balya and Ceraso.

Ceraso would not comment on the matter.

Valley briefs

Victim beaten, shot more than once

An autopsy showed Vernon Hayden Sr. was beaten about the head and shot more than once, Allegheny County Police said Thursday.

The body of Hayden, 71, who was reported missing from his Elizabeth Township home last month, was found Wednesday afternoon off a dirt road in Juniata Township in Bedford County.

His stepgrandson, Timothy Alan Large Jr., 30, of Forward, is charged with criminal homicide and is awaiting a preliminary hearing scheduled Jan. 18.

A criminal complaint states Large told police he shot Hayden once in the head on Dec. 8 and dumped his body in the Monongahela River. Large later decided to lead police to Hayden's body.

Ex-CYS worker loses lawsuit

A wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a former Washington County Children and Youth Services employee was thrown out in federal court earlier this week.

U.S. District Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan ruled Tuesday that Jacqueline R. Harris, a former Monessen resident, could not convince the court that she was unrightfully fired in 2003.

Harris began working for CYS in the summer of 1997.

She was fired for misuse of the office telephone.

A black woman, Harris claimed she was fired based on race and had been subject to a hostile working environment.

After she was terminated, Harris filed an action with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The commission turned down the request and Harris filed a lawsuit.

Washington County Solicitor Lynn DeHaven said a two-day trial that began Monday resulted in Lenihan dismissing the lawsuit.

DeHaven said that the judge decided that there was not enough evidence to support Harris' claims after she, a union representative and the head of the Washington CYS testified.

In the lawsuit, Harris was seeking back pay and compensation for lost benefits, emotional distress, attorney fees and other punitive damages.

Donora residents asked to beware

Donora Police Superintendent Jim Brice is asking the residents of the borough to look out for one another.

He said that the high price of scrap metal has led to several incidents of thieves entering unoccupied structures and stealing the copper to sell for profit.

However, in recent days, two homes that are occupied but had nobody home were entered and the copper was taken.

Brice asked that residents keep an eye on neighboring buildings and if they see anyone suspicious in the area to please call police immediately to hopefully catch the perpetrators.

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Associated Press

Former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril Wecht heads toward federal court in Pittsburgh, where jury selection began Thursday for his trial on charges that he used his former government staff to benefit his famous, multimillion-dollar private practice.

Wecht case might end juror anonymity policy

Ex-medical examiner's corruption trial could torpedo rules in Pittsburgh's federal court.

By JASON CATO
For The Valley Independent
jcato@tribweb.com

Former Allegheny County Coroner Cyril Wecht's criminal case in which jury selection began Thursday may lead to a relaxation of a local U.S. District Court practice requiring that juror names remain secret.

A federal appeals court decision to force a judge to make public the names of jurors in Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's corruption trial could torpedo rules in Pittsburgh's federal court that keep the identity of jurors secret in all cases.

"It's unconstitutional," said lawyer David Strassburger, who represented the *Tribune-Review* in its successful appeal to have the names made public in the Wecht case.

"The reason it's unconstitutional is because it's a blanket prohibition to releasing juror names and requires secrecy in every case."

Federal courts in the Western District of Pennsylvania, including U.S. District Court on Grant Street, have barred the public release of juror names and addresses since 2004 and prohibited jurors from being identified by name in open court since 2006.

This week's decision by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals could result in jurors' identities being revealed in other federal cases, said Strassburger and Melissa Melewsky, a lawyer for the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association.

"It's hard to imagine how an order disclosing prospective and empanelled jurors' identity doesn't directly conflict with the juror confidentiality rule," Melewsky said.

"This rule presumes there's going to be a problem when, in fact, there likely will not be."

Wecht, 76, of Squirrel Hill is accused of using his public office while Allegheny County coroner for private gain, and faces 41 counts of fraud and theft. Jury selection began Thursday.

Courts historically have shielded juror identities from the public and sometimes lawyers when a concern for safety exists, often in gang or organized crime cases.

Local news organizations, including the *Tribune-Review*, a sister publication of *The Valley Independent*, appealed U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab's decision to keep juror names and addresses from the public. Media lawyers argued Wecht's case didn't warrant an anonymous jury.

The 3rd Circuit on Wednesday ordered Schwab to release the names of all potential jurors before Wecht's trial begins Jan. 28. It's possible that the appeals court might address the local court rule when it releases its full opinion.

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Man arrested in death of murder victim's cousin

An ex-boyfriend has been charged in the strangulation death of Charleroi murder victim Amanda Faux's relative in Clairton.

For The Valley Independent

When Melissa Galiyas disappeared in March, friends and family members suspected that she was dead and her former boyfriend was responsible.

James Hilson, 36, was charged with criminal homicide Thursday after telling Allegheny County homicide detectives he became angry because Galiyas planned to testify against him in an assault case and strangled her with a cord, a criminal complaint states.

The remains of Galiyas, who was seen walking with Hilson on the day she disappeared, were found on Dec. 22 in a shallow grave in a wooded area near her home on Van Kirk Street in Clairton.

Hilson had been taken into custody nine days earlier in Macon, Ga., on a bench warrant charging him with failure to appear for trial on charges of assaulting Galiyas.

Galiyas was a cousin of 22-year-old Amanda Faux, whose nude body was discovered Sunday evening in an alley dumpster near her Fifth Street apartment complex in Charleroi.

Faux's boyfriend, Joseph John Natale, 28, who moved into the apartment with her one day before her body was found, has been charged with strangling Faux following a fight the two had in their apartment late Saturday.

After turning himself in to police, Natale was charged Tuesday with one count each of criminal homicide, aggravated assault and abuse of a corpse.

At a press conference Wednesday, Charleroi Police Det. Lt. James Disanti, who is investigating Faux's murder, said police are unsure if the two homicide cases are related. Washington County District Attorney Steve Toprani said they appear to be "merely coincidental."

Concerning the Galiyas murder, family members and friends have said she had a long and troubled relationship with Hilson. Allegheny County Court records show that Galiyas and Hilson had a history of filing protection-from-abuse petitions against one another, being ordered to stay away and then dropping the petitions.

Faux and a friend, Jack Nolder, said in recent interviews that they believed Hilson killed Galiyas.

According to the criminal complaint filed against Hilson, Nolder last saw Galiyas alive on March 26, three days before she was scheduled to testify against Hilson in his trial on aggravated assault charges.

Donora decks hockey rink

Palmer Park complex will be closed until the people who use it clean up the mess they made.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

DONORA - Borough Council hopes that showing tough love will solve a problem at the dek hockey rink in Palmer Park.

Due to recent vandalism and unkempt conditions at the rink, council will close the facility until the area is cleaned up.

At Thursday's monthly council meeting, Mayor John Lignelli expressed dismay at the condition of the rink when he saw it earlier in the week.

"The doors were torn off and there was garbage everywhere, but the waste cans we have there were totally empty," Lignelli said.

The mayor then suggested to council that the facility be closed for use until "those who use it learn how to take care of it and keep it clean."

The mayor said that the borough street crew has too much work to do and should not have to clean up after people who don't want to take care of borough facilities.

"Why should we waste our man hours doing that in that area?" Lignelli asked.

Councilman Walter Sloan said he agreed with the mayor wholeheartedly, but added, "We have the same problem downtown with garbage."

After some discussion, council decided to have the street crew put the doors back up to the facility and lock the gate until the rink is cleaned up by those who use it.

Also, the goals for the facility are to be taken down and stored until the facility is re-opened.

"I guarantee you that if we close that dek hockey rink down one time, we will get the attention of the people who use it and they will learn to keep it clean and take care of it or they won't ever get to use it," Lignelli said.

Council instructed police Superintendent Jim Brice to put up a "no trespassing" sign in the area today.

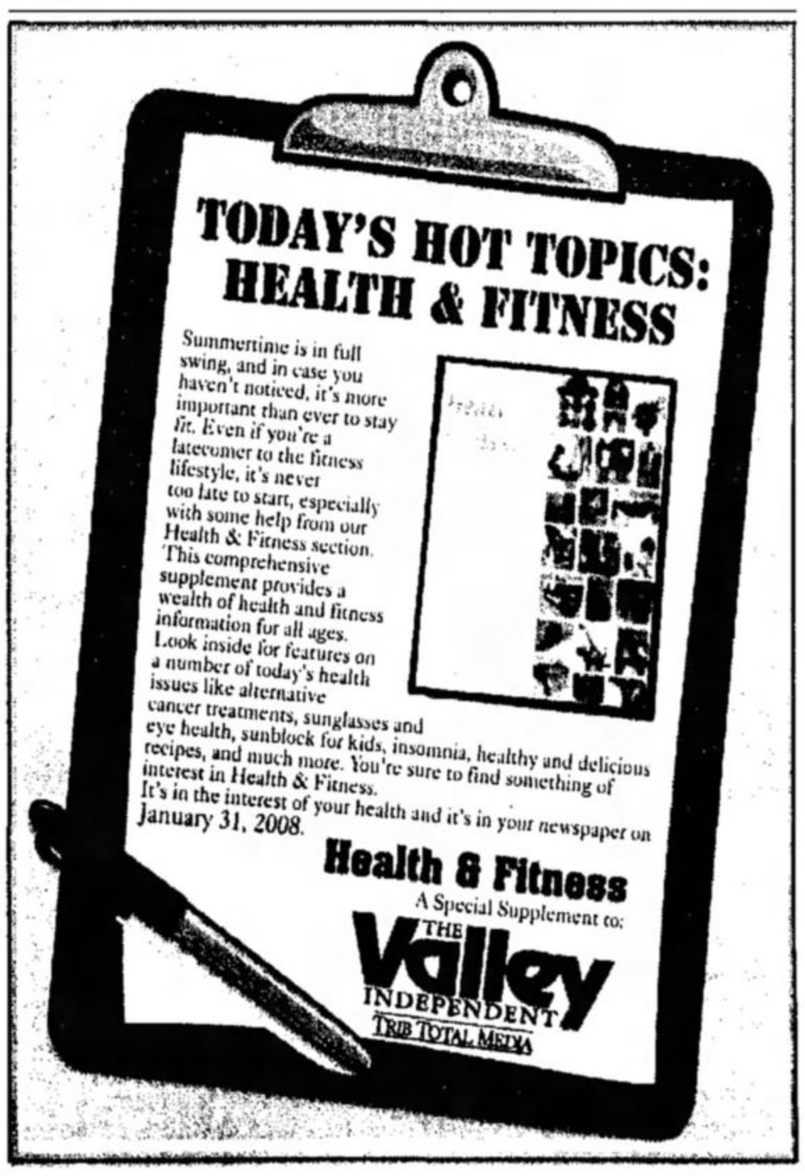
He also was directed to cite anyone caught entering the rink.

Brice said violators could face a fine of up to $300.

Council decided that once the facility is cleaned up it will be re-opened to the public.

In other business, council:

- Hired Jason R. Smith as a part-time police officer.
- Announced that 2008 refuse bills have been mailed out to residents. Any resident who has yet to receive a copy of the bill is asked to contact the borough building so that a new bill can be sent out.



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RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

Additional obituaries appear on Page 5A

BERTOVICH — Rose Bertovich, 93, of Bentleyville, on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Leonard M. Pavlic Funeral Homes Inc., Bentleyville.*

DANILCHAK — Linda Danilchak, 58, of Ellsworth, on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Thompson-Marodi Funeral Home Inc., Bentleyville.*

HAYDEN — Vernon W. Hayden Sr., 71, of Elizabeth, on Wednesday, Jan. 9. James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Sweeney Plan/Rostraver Township.*

HOLLOWAY — Brenda Holloway, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of Donora, on Wednesday, Jan. 9. House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, Donora.

HOUGH — Cecelia A. Hough, 73, of Speers Hill (Charleroi), on Thursday, Jan. 10. Schrock-Hogan Funeral Home and Cremation Services Inc., Charleroi.*

KICKEL — George J. Kickel, 79, of Donora, on Thursday, Jan. 10. James A. Rabe Funeral Home Inc., Donora.*

MASTRO — John Mastro, 81, of Donora, on Thursday, Jan. 10. Anthony L Massafra Funeral Home, Donora.*

MATTY — John E. Matty Sr., 86, of Star Junction, on Thursday, Jan. 10. Blair-Lowther Funeral Home Inc., Perryopolis.*

PEARCE — Russell W. Pearce, formerly of Charleroi, on Monday, Dec. 24.*

RAYNAL — Olga Raynal, 91, formerly of West Newton and Donora, on Sunday, Jan. 6. James A. Rabe Funeral Home Inc., Donora.*

TEMPEST — Mildred R. Tempest, 92, of Monongahela, on Sunday, Jan. 6. Frye Funeral Home Inc., Monongahela.*

YARBROUGH — Minnie Yarbrough, of Belle Vernon, on Thursday, Jan. 10. Beverly Draper Funeral Home, Monessen.

PREVIOUS DEATHS
BASILE, Nellie M.*
MARINO, William*
PROTIN, William F.*
* See death notice

Nellie M. Basile
Belle Vernon (Fairhope)

Nellie M. Basile, 81, of Belle Vernon (Fairhope), was called home to her God on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, in her home. A daughter of the late William and Frances Goletz Malinowski, she was born in Fairhope on March 24, 1926. Nellie was a lifetime member of Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Fayette City and a former member of the Friends of the Veterans and the Valley of Hope prayer group. She retired in 1988 from the Washington Township Municipal Authority. Nellie was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Roland Paul Jr. and Donna Basile, of Waterboro, Maine; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Charmel and Gary Makovsky, of Rostraver Township, Janis and Monty Gamble, of Mt. Pleasant, and Mary Frances and Marti Stefanick, and Peggy Basile, all of Belle Vernon; two sisters, Helen Trenk and Frances Seman, of Belle Vernon; 11 grandchildren, Chris Jones and husband, Michael, Renee Marsico, and Jon Paul Basile and wife, Vicki, all of Maine, Tracey Cook and husband, Bob, of Belle Vernon, Gary Lee Makovsky and wife, Amy, of Speers (Charleroi), Shawn Ghost and wife, Amanda, of the state of California, Brandon Ghost, of Mt. Pleasant, and Brittney, Ben and Chelsea Harvey and Janell Tumbiolo, all of Belle Vernon; and six great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Roland P. "Pee Wee" Basile, on Sept. 30, 2001; two brothers, Walter and Adolf Malinowski; and three sisters, Blanche Moskal, Steffie DuJardin and Stella "Stushka" Malinowski. Friends will be received Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME and CREMATORY INC., www.fergusonfuneralhomeandcrematory.com, (724-929-5300), 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon. A blessing service will be in the funeral home on Saturday, Jan. 12, at 9 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass in Holy Spirit R.C. Church at 9:30 a.m. Interment will follow in Belle Vernon Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

In Memory Of
Geraldine J. Allen
A Birthday Tribute today, January 11, in loving memory of our beloved mother, Geraldine J. Allen. She passed away 7 years ago, October 28, 2000.
Every day in some way, memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near, still loved, still missed & ever dear. Beautiful memories are wonderful things, they last through the longest day. They never wear out, they never get lost, and can never be given away. Though by some you may be forgotten, and to others a part of the past, but for us who loved and lost you, your memory will always last.
Sadly missed and loved by the Allen Family

Rose Bertovich
Bentleyville

Rose Bertovich, 93, of Bentleyville, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. She was born Oct. 8, 1914, in Bentleyville, a daughter of John and Julia Puskarich Bertovich. After attending Bentleyville High school, Rose worked at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh for a short while. She was a lifelong partner of Hillcrest Dairy and Bertovich Farm. Rose was a member of the former St. Luke Church, now Ave Maria Parish in Bentleyville, the former St. Luke Altar Rosary Society and Ave Maria Parish Women's Guild. She is survived by one brother and sister, John Bertovich and Anne Bertovich, both of Bentleyville. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers and sisters, Frank and Michael Bertovich, and Mary Slogick and Kay Kubincanek. Visitation will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, in the LEONARD M. PAVLIC FUNERAL HOMES INC., 405 Main St., Bentleyville, where prayers will be said at 11:35 a.m., followed by a noon Mass of Christian Burial in Ave Maria Parish, Bentleyville, with the Rev. Gary Krummert officiating. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Linda Danilchak
Ellsworth

Linda Yowonske Danilchak, 58, of Ellsworth, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at her home. She was born Oct. 17, 1949, in Charleroi, a daughter of Louise Silvania Yowonske Yemiola, of Bentleyville, and the late Frank T. Yowonske. Linda attended Belle Vernon schools and was a graduate of Bentworth High School. In addition to her mother, she is survived by one sister and brother, Kris Hall and Frank Yowonske, both of Key West, Fla.; and her long-time companion, Homer Hay, of Ellsworth. She was preceded in death by her step-father, Frank Yemiola Jr. Friends will be received from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 2 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday at the THOMPSON-MARODI FUNERAL HOME INC., 809 Main St., Bentleyville (724-239-2255), where a prayer service will be held at 9:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 14, followed at 10 a.m. by a Mass of Christian Burial in Ave Maria Church, Bentleyville, with the Rev. Gary W. Krummert as celebrant. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township. For those unable to attend, condolences can be sent at www.thompson-marodi.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Vernon W. Hayden Sr.
Elizabeth

Vernon W. Hayden Sr., 71, of Elizabeth, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008. Born in Mustard Hollow on Sept. 17, 1936, he was the son of the late Vernon O. and Laura Lutes Hayden. He was retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport plant, and a member of the Victory Hill Volunteer Fire Department and the Black Diamond VFW No. 1409. Mr. Hayden served with the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. He is survived by four sons, Vernon Jr., of Belle Vernon, Todd, of Castle Shannon, Dale, of Monongahela, and Charles and wife, Linda, of Glassport; one daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and John Ducarme, of Monongahela; five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren; four brothers, Pastor James Hayden and wife, Madeline, of Clarksville, the Rev. Dennis Hayden and wife, Teresa, of Brownsville, Harry Hayden and wife, Melissa, of Donora, and Joseph Hayden, of Webster (Rostraver Township); three sisters, Dolly Evans and husband, Lee, of Oregon, and Sophia Kaylor and husband, Rick, and Susan Hayden, all of Webster; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly; and two daughters, Denise and Laura. Friends will be received Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934), www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com, where a Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. with the Rev. Reed Anders officiating. Interment, with full military honors, will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Cecelia A. Hough
Speers Hill (Charleroi)

Cecelia A. "Sally" Hough, 73, of Speers Hill (Charleroi), died Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, in the Washington County Health Center. She was born Dec. 8, 1934, in Charleroi, a daughter of the late Edward and Kathryn Tope Michener. Mrs. Hough was Untied Methodist by faith. She was employed by the former Kinder and Mollenauer in Charleroi and Ehlers Auto Parts in Belle Vernon. Survivors include her husband, Raymond E. Hough; one son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Pam Hough, of Pueblo, Colo.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherry and Ken Ballentyne, of Charleroi, and Lila and Mark Mears, of Pueblo West, Colo.; five grandchildren, Daniel Ballentyne, Amanda Shenouda, Michael Mears, Eric Mears and Kevin Hough; and nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one brother and sister, George Michener and Patricia Tedrow. Friends will be received Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the SCHROCK-HOGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES INC., (www.schrock-hogan.com), 226 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, where funeral services will be held Monday, Jan. 14, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Jeffrey St.Clair officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

George J. Kickel
Donora

George J. Kickel, 79, of Donora, passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008. He was born in Monongahela on Sept. 28, 1928, a son of the late Michael and Anna Parasolick Kickel. He was a 1948 graduate of Monongahela High School, where he was the captain of the Monongahela Wildcats football team and served as his class treasurer. Mr. Kickel was a veteran of the U.S. Army, receiving an honorable discharge in 1951. He was retired from USX Corporation, Irvin Works and Donora Lumber Company. George was a well respected member of St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Monessen, where he was an altar server and a member of St. Michael Parish Council. He was a founding member of the Donora Youth Athletic Association. George was very proud to be a midget league football coach, where he helped to foster the development of many youths. Mr. Kickel was a recipient of the Polonoli Memorial Midget Football League Award for his devotion to the youth sports program in Donora. He was a member and Loyal Knight of the BPOE Lodge No. 1265 in Donora, where he was honored as Elk of the Year for 2004-2005. Mr. Kickel was an avid fisherman, hunter, golfer and bowler. He was a member of the Donora Elks, Polish Falcons, the Seniors Golf League, and the Donora Croatian Club Thursday Night Bowling League. George was very proud to shoot a hole in one on July 9, 1988, at Willowbrook Golf Course in Rostraver Township. George was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and Mike Kickel; and one sister, Anne Boros. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Martha Hanna Kickel, whom he married on June 30, 1956; a son, George M. Kickel and wife, Kimberly, of Erie; and a daughter, Cynthia K. Magone and husband, Frank, of Monongahela. George was a very loving grandfather to five beautiful grandchildren who loved their "Gramps" very much: Michael, Corrine, and Christopher Kickel, of Erie, and Elizabeth and Alexandra Magone, of Monongahela. He is also survived by three sisters, Helen Kickel, of Pittsburgh, Dorothy Kickel, of Washington, and Martha Affinito and husband, Vinnie, of Monongahela; an uncle, George Parasolick and wife, Madeline, of Monongahela; and many nieces and nephews. George was a very good friend and neighbor to all who knew him. May his Memory be Eternal! Friends will be received Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the JAMES A. RABE FUNERAL HOME INC., 701 Thompson Ave., Donora (724-379-9020), where Trisagion Prayers for the Departed will be said Monday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 10 a.m. at St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church in Monessen with the Rev. Fred Pfeil officiating. Interment will follow in Monongahela Cemetery. Elks services will be held Sunday at 7 p.m., followed by Trisagion Prayers for the Departed at 7:30 p.m. Family and friends may view the obituary and offer on-line condolences at www.rabefuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

William Marino
Monessen

William Marino, 88, of Monessen, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. He was born Feb. 4, 1919, in Monessen, a son of the late Ralph and Asunta Yannito Marino. He was a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church and a life member of Monessen Fire Department, Company No. 1 and B.P.O.E. Lodge 773, all in Monessen, the Western Pennsylvania and Westmoreland County Fireman's associations, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Chiefs and Assistant Chief's Association, a past president of the "Old Timers Association" of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's Association, Christian Firefighters Guild of North America, and the LS Hunting Camp of Clearfield. He was a former member of the Mon Valley CB Radio Club and the Fraternal Order of Police, Mon Valley Lodge No. 87. Prior to retirement, Mr. Marino was employed by American Chain and Cable Co., Page's Division. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Sechrist Marino; one daughter, Vicki Marino, of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; two sons, David Marino and wife, Mickey, of Las Vegas, Nev., and Randall Marino, of Monessen; four grandchildren, Cory and Scott MacDonald, and Robert and Stacy Marino; one great-granddaughter, Shea Minton; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Mr. Marino was preceded in death by five brothers, Frank, James, Joseph, Arthur and Raymond; and four sisters, Mary Parkins, Minnie Treater, Lena Marino and Edith Palanzo. Friends will be received Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., a Golden Rule Funeral Home, 1209 Grand Blvd., Monessen. A Blessing Service will be held Monday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in Epiphany of Our Lord R.C. Church. Interment will follow in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen. On Sunday, members of Monessen Fire Department, Company No. 1 will hold services at 7 p.m; members of American Legion Post No. 28 will pay their respects as a group Sunday evening, and B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 773 will conduct services at 7:30 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

John Mastro
Donora

John Mastro, 81, of Donora, passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, in Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh. He was born in Monongahela on Jan. 4, 1927, a son of the late Angelo and Elizabeth Conte Mastro. He was a member of Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church in Monessen and the Donora American Legion. Mr. Mastro was employed as a mill wright with U.S. Steel, Donora Works. He was also employed by Standard Oil in El Segundo, Calif., before returning to Pennsylvania and finishing his career with U.S. Steel in Sto-Rox. Mr. Mastro was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Julio Mastro. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Alice Hora Mastro; three sons, Jay Mastro, of Pittsburgh, Scott Mastro, of Golden, Colo., and Craig Mastro, of Lakewood, Colo.; a granddaughter, Danielle Mastro; a sister, Mary Aloisi, of South Hills; and many nieces and nephews. Friends will be received Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the ANTHONY L. MASSAFRA FUNERAL HOME, 40 Second St. Ext., Donora (724-379-6900), where prayers will be recited on Monday, Jan. 14, at 11:15 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at noon in Epiphany of Our Lord R.C. Church, Monessen. Entombment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Monongahela.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

John E. Matty Sr.
Star Junction

John E. Matty Sr., 86, of Star Junction, passed away Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008. He was born Feb. 11, 1921, in Star Junction, the son of the late Andrew and Mary Kalman Matty. He was a member of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Perryopolis and a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army in the China and Burma Campaign. Mr. Matty was a member of American Legion Post 51 of Uniontown, Sokol Assembly No. 725 of Perryopolis and the Santa Barbara Club of Newell. John is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, John E. Jr. and Doreen Matty, of Fayette City, Douglas Matty, of Perryopolis, and Brian and Mary Matty, of Monaca; grandchildren, John III, David, Frank, Christine, Greg, Brian Jr., Adam and Patrick; seven great-grandchildren; one brother and sister-in-law, Thomas and Virginia Matty, of Star Junction; two sisters, Mrs. Albert (Patty) Chlebowski, of Scottdale, and Mrs. Fred (Connie) Tylka, of Belle Vernon; and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty J. Matty; three brothers, Andrew, Joseph and Steve Matty; and one sister, Mary Logoyda. Friends will be received in the BLAIR-LOWTHER FUNERAL HOME INC., 106 East Independence St., Perryopolis (724-736-4424), on Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m., Sunday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. A prayer service will be held Monday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. John the Baptist R.C. Church with the Rev. John Sedlak as celebrant. Interment will be in St. John's Cemetery, Perryopolis. Military Graveside Rites will be accorded by VFW Gold Star Post 7023 and American Legion Post 752, Perryopolis. A wake service will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. in the funeral home.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

William Felix Protin
Charleroi

William Felix Protin, 84, of Charleroi, died Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, in the Washington County Health Center. He was born Feb. 20, 1923, in Charleroi, a son of the late Felix and Georgianna Johns Protin. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Charleroi and retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allenport plant. Survivors include his son, Ed Protin and wife, Carole, of Charleroi; his daughter, Ruth Ann Dick, of Atlanta, Ga.; four grandchildren, Page Echols, Bob Dick, Justin Protin and Kellie Protin; and two great-grandchildren, Brooke and Bryson Echols. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Beasley Protin; one brother, Louis Protin; and two sisters, Grace Costello and infant Ruth Protin. Friends will be received Friday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the SCHROCK-HOGAN FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES INC., (www.schrock-hogan.com), 226 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, where funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in Howe Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

January 11

Today is Friday, Jan. 11, the 11th day of 2008. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Jan. 11, 1908, the Grand Canyon National Monument was created with a proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt. (It became a national park in 1919.)

On this date:

■ In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created by an act of Congress.

■ In 1815, Sir John A. Macdonald, the first prime minister of Canada, was born in Glasgow, Scotland.

■ In 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union.

■ In 1913, the first sedan-type automobile, a Hudson, went on display at the 13th Automobile Show in New York.

■ In 1935, aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif., that made her the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.

■ In 1942, Japan declared war against the Netherlands, the same day that Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies.

■ In 1964, U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry issued the first government report saying smoking may be hazardous to one's health.

■ In 1977, France set off an international uproar by releasing Abu Daoud, a PLO official behind the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

■ In 1995, 52 people were killed when a Colombian airliner crashed as it was preparing to land near the Caribbean resort of Cartagena.

■ **Ten years ago**: The Denver Broncos beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, 24-21, to win the American Football Conference Championship.

■ **Five years ago**: Calling the death penalty process "arbitrary and capricious, and therefore immoral," Illinois Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 condemned inmates, clearing his state's death row two days before leaving office.

■ **One year ago**: President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq ran into a wall of criticism on Capitol Hill as administration officials drew confrontational challenges from both Democrats and Republicans.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Producer Grant Tinker is 83. Producer David L. Wolper is 80. Actor Rod Taylor is 78. The former prime minister of Canada, Jean Chretien, is 74. Actor Mitchell Ryan is 74. Actor Felix Silla is 71. Rock musician Clarence Clemons is 66. Movie director Joel Zwick is 66. Country singer Naomi Judd is 62. Golfer Ben Crenshaw is 56. Singer Robert Earl Keen is 52. Musician Vicki Peterson (The Bangles) is 50. Actress Kim Coles is 46. Actor Jason Connery is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Jim Bryson (MercyMe) is 40. Rock musician Tom Dumont (No Doubt) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxee Maxwell (Brownstone) is 39. Singer Mary J. Blige is 37. Actor Marc Blucas is 36. Actress Amanda Peet is 36. Actor Rockmond Dunbar is 35.

DEATH NOTICES

Russell W. Pearce
Formerly of Charleroi

Russell W. Pearce, 93, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, Dec. 24, 2007, surrounded by his loving family. He was the son of the late Charles and Marie Pearce of Charleroi. He was a graduate of Charleroi High School. Mr. Pearce served in World War II as a captain in the 103rd Infantry Division under the command of George Patton. Russ was in the Battle of the Bulge and received many commendations, including two Purple Hearts. He was past master of the Schodack Union Masonic Temple, served many years on the Zoning Board of Appeals of Schodack, and vice president of Austin-Empire Engravers in Albany, retiring in 1980. Russell is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Marguerite; two daughters, Deborah Nibe, of New Windsor, and Bonnie Battaglia, of Albany; two brothers, Charles D., of Charleroi, and Walter E., of Cathedral City, Calif.; two grandchildren, Christopher J. Nibe, of Ocala, Fla., and Melissa L. Nibe, of Irmo, S.C.; and one great-grandson, Chase A. Nibe, of Ocala. Russell has made an anatomical gift to Albany Medical College. There will be graveside services in the spring at Woodlawn Cemetery in Schodack. Anyone wishing to remember Russ is asked to kindly send a contribution to: Hospice, 295 Valley View Blvd., Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Olga Raynal
Formerly of West Newton and Donora

Services were held this morning in Monongahela Cemetery for Olga Raynal, 91, formerly of West Newton and Donora, who died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. She was born in Pricedale (Rostraver Township) on June 24, 1916, a daughter of the late Prokop and Rosalie Watralik Yadlosky. She was employed as an assistant to Dr. Dow in Monessen and Dr. Sobol in Charleroi. She also worked as a beautician for Jimmy Bonafed in Monessen. Mrs. Raynal attended Bible Alliance Church in West Newton and was Protestant by faith. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Norval B. Raynal, in 2002; a son, Spencer Raynal, in 1977; three sisters, Eva Yadlosky, Pearl Oliphant and Ann Hopton; and two brothers, Andrew and John Yadlosky. Survivors include two granddaughters, Gina M. Steranko, of Carroll Township, and Jennifer Messina and husband, Mickey, of Smithsburg, Md.; five great-grandchildren, Kelsey and Lindsay Steranko and Michael, Marco and Dario Messina; two sisters-in-law, Marie Hobart, of Ohio, and Elizabeth "Libby" Yadlosky, of Monessen; and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made in Mrs. Raynal's name to Bible Alliance Church in West Newton. The JAMES A. RABE FUNERAL HOME INC., Donora, was in charge of arrangements. Family and friends may view the obituary and offer on-line condolences at www.rabefuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mildred R. Tempest
Monongahela

Mildred Rose Tempest, 92, of Monongahela, died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, in the Washington County Health Center, Washington, Pa. She was born Feb. 18, 1915, in Monongahela, a daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Morrettini Vecho. Mrs. Tempest was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Monongahela. She was a retired LPN having been employed for many years at Havencrest Nursing Center in Carroll Township. She was the last member of her immediate family. She is survived by three daughters and two sons-in-law, Nancy and Joseph Lupetin, of Monongahela, Janice Babiak, of Pricedale (Rostraver Township), and Patricia and Frank Britt, of Monongahela; five grandchildren, Robert, Cynthia, Sherri, Bonnie and Amanda; eight great-grandchildren, Adam, Rachelle, Sarah, Shannon, Chance, Zander, Morrighan and Wylleum. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur J. Tempest, on Dec. 9, 1977; four brothers, John, Andrew, William and Louis Vecho; and two sisters, Teresa Snodgrass and Ida Kutasie. Private visitations and funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008, at the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., Monongahela, with the Rev. Mark Woomer officiating. Interment was in Monongahela Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to: First Presbyterian Church, 609 Chess St., Monongahela, Pa. 15063.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Associated Press

A U.S. army soldier from the Ghostrider Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment throws a smoke grenade during Operation Phantom Phoenix in the village of Abu Musa on the northern outskirts of Muqdadiyah, in the volatile Diyala province, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday. The U.S. military launched Operation Phantom Phoenix on Tuesday as a nationwide campaign against al-Qaida in Iraq.

U.S. commander in Iraq laud bombing campaign

Effort allowed American soldiers to push into areas where they have not been in years.

By BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One of the largest bombing campaigns of the war destroyed extremists' "defensive belts" south of Baghdad, allowing American soldiers to push into areas where they have not been in years, a top commander said today.

The day before, two B1-B bombers and four F-16 fighter jets dropped 48 precision-guided bombs on 47 targets, U.S. Air Force Col. Peter Donnelly, commander of the 18th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, told reporters in Baghdad.

The targets consisted mainly of weapons caches and powerful roadside bombs buried deep underground — key defensive elements for al-Qaida in Iraq insurgents, said Donnelly and Army Col. Terry Ferrell, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Extremists were believed to have controlled Arab Jabour, a Sunni district lined with citrus groves, but Ferrell said "the predominant number" have now fled to the southwest since his troops' operations began Jan. 1.

"We're moving into areas where coalition forces have not been in months or years in some cases," Ferrell told reporters via a video link, adding that insurgents "had established a deliberate defensive belt to deny our movement in the area."

Ferrell said the southwest is "where we take this fight to next. It is all about fighting the enemy where the enemy wants to go."

As U.S. and Iraqi ground forces move through areas to push out insurgents, Ferrell said members of the so-called "Awakening Council" movement will be relied upon to stabilize the region.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Bush tours biblical sites

SEA OF GALILEE, Israel (AP) — After two days immersed in the intense and arcane world of Mideast peacemaking, President Bush today toured holy sites, listening as robed clerics read him biblical passages about Jesus' days of ministry there centuries ago.

Bush visited Capernaum, a site where Jesus is said to have performed miracles.

The president later gazed across the Sea of Galilee where, Jesus is claimed to have walked on water.

He toured the site of an ancient synagogue and joked and held hands with nuns outside the Church of the Beatitudes, a place where Jesus delivered his famed "Sermon on the Mount."

Asked how it felt about the opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps, Bush replied "Amazing experience."

Unpaid bills impact FBI wiretaps

WASHINGTON (AP) — Telephone companies have cut off FBI wiretaps used to eavesdrop on suspected criminals because of the bureau's repeated failures to pay phone bills on time.

A Justice Department audit released Thursday blamed the lost connections on the FBI's lax oversight of money used in undercover investigations. In one office alone, unpaid costs for wiretaps from one phone company totaled $66,000.

In at least one case, a wiretap used in a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act investigation "was halted due to untimely payment," the audit found.

Wiretaps conducted under that legislation reportedly are used in the federal government's most sensitive and secretive criminal and intelligence investigations, and allow eavesdropping on suspected terrorists or spies.

PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5

HARRISBURG (AP) — One player matched all five winning numbers drawn in Thursday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will collect a jackpot worth $200,000.

Lottery officials said 136 players matched four numbers and won $312.50 each; 4,599 players matched three numbers and won $10 each; and 49,649 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The winning numbers drawn Thursday in the "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game were: 09-13-17-31-35.

The Valley Independent LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

DAY PICK 3:	3-0-8
NIGHT PICK 3:	9-7-8
DAY PICK BIG 4:	7-0-1-1
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	7-2-6-5
TREASURE HUNT:	6-10-15-21-30
MIX & MATCH:	4-3-2-7-6
CASH 5:	9-13-17-31-35

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

DAY PICK 3:	3-3-1
NIGHT PICK 3:	1-9-8
DAY PICK 4:	1-1-6-5
NIGHT PICK 4:	2-6-0-1
ROLLING CASH 5:	10-14-16-18-21

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

DAILY 3:	6-5-3
DAILY 4:	9-4-0-3
CASH 25:	14-18-19-22-23-24

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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OUR OPINION

Calendars are more wasted money

AFTER THE 2005 PAY RAISE fiasco, we were promised that a new day had arrived in Pennsylvania politics.

But that new day can't be found on any of the nearly 300,000 self-promoting calendars that General Assembly members recently had printed at taxpayer expense.

It cost the state $131,000 — roughly three times the median household income for Pennsylvanians — to produce the slick, full-color calendars, which are sent free of charge to certain constituents.

Although this year's edition celebrates state natives who became American military heroes, each calendar also features a photo of the House or Senate member who distributed it.

Senate Republican spokesman Erik Arneson defended the calendars as "one of many informational materials made available to constituents." His Democratic counterpart, Charlie Tocci, notes that the calendars contain "no politically motivated material."

Both miss the point of the objections being raised by the anti-calendar crowd. After the 2005 taxpayer revolt forced the pay raise to be overturned, we were promised that Harrisburg was going to be more careful with our money.

Pennsylvania taxpayers have gone through decades of watching state funds being wasted on perks, promotional materials and other frivolous items.

Our hero in this latest dispute is Sen. John Eichelberger, a Republican from Blair County, who was the only senator to refuse his allotted 1,000 calendars.

"They said, 'You don't understand. You get these calendars at no cost to you,'" Eichelberger explained. "And I said 'No, you don't understand. They cost the taxpayers. I don't want them.'"

That attitude — not a calendar or some other silly trinket — is the gift we really need from our state leaders.

ANOTHER VIEW

The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News on changes to the Pennsylvania Legislature:

Some 55 Pennsylvania state lawmakers chose to retire or were defeated at the polls in November 2006. With the next election 10 months away, 18 additional lawmakers have announced retirement plans, with likely more to come.

That means that in the course of two years more than a quarter of the seats in General Assembly will be held by newcomers, with possibly more than a third replaced with fresh blood after this November.

This raises a salient question: Is there a tipping point when there are enough sitting "reformers" to actually produce a serious overhaul of the Legislature? Or do the reformers, after a few years on the job, become comfortable with their role as part of the ruling elite and defenders of the usual way of doing things?

If it is the latter, legislative reform amounts to a dog trying to catch its tail, which is to say there is much spinning and ruckus, but not much else.

We are not so cynical as to have given up hope on reform. We note that important internal changes have been made, but the broader reform effort — aside from a serious move to improve access to public records and a smoking ban — has been pretty much invisible.

We keep looking for that moment of reformist synergy, for that tipping point in the balance of power that will finally deliver the kind of representative government people hunger for.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent*, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valley@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Earth contains finite resources

Charley **REESE**

The Earth is finite. All of the natural resources on it are also finite. That means if we keep using these resources at the current rates, we will eventually move from more to less to none. That will be an evil day for the human race.

Perpetual growth is a myth. The belief that technology can overcome scarcity is a superstition. The belief that the growth of the human population is not a problem is an example of denial. The Earth has a finite carrying capacity. When we exceed that, very bad things begin to happen. There is probably even a tipping point beyond which recovery is impossible.

There is no medical cure for starvation, and all that is necessary for starvation to start killing people is for the price of food to rise beyond their means. Whenever there have been famines, there has always been food somewhere in the world. It just wasn't available or affordable to the people who were dying. Depending on altruism is putting your hopes in a leaky bucket.

Since human life absolutely depends on food and clean water, you would think that agriculture would receive more attention than it does. The past few administrations have seemed to think that subsidies to corporate agribusinesses are all that is necessary.

But agriculture is a great deal more complex than the buying and selling of commodities. There is the matter of preserving the land and its fertility. There is the matter of producing food that is uncontaminated by chemical pesticides and herbicides. There is the matter of preserving access to water in the more arid areas. There is the matter of religious faith in free-market capitalism.

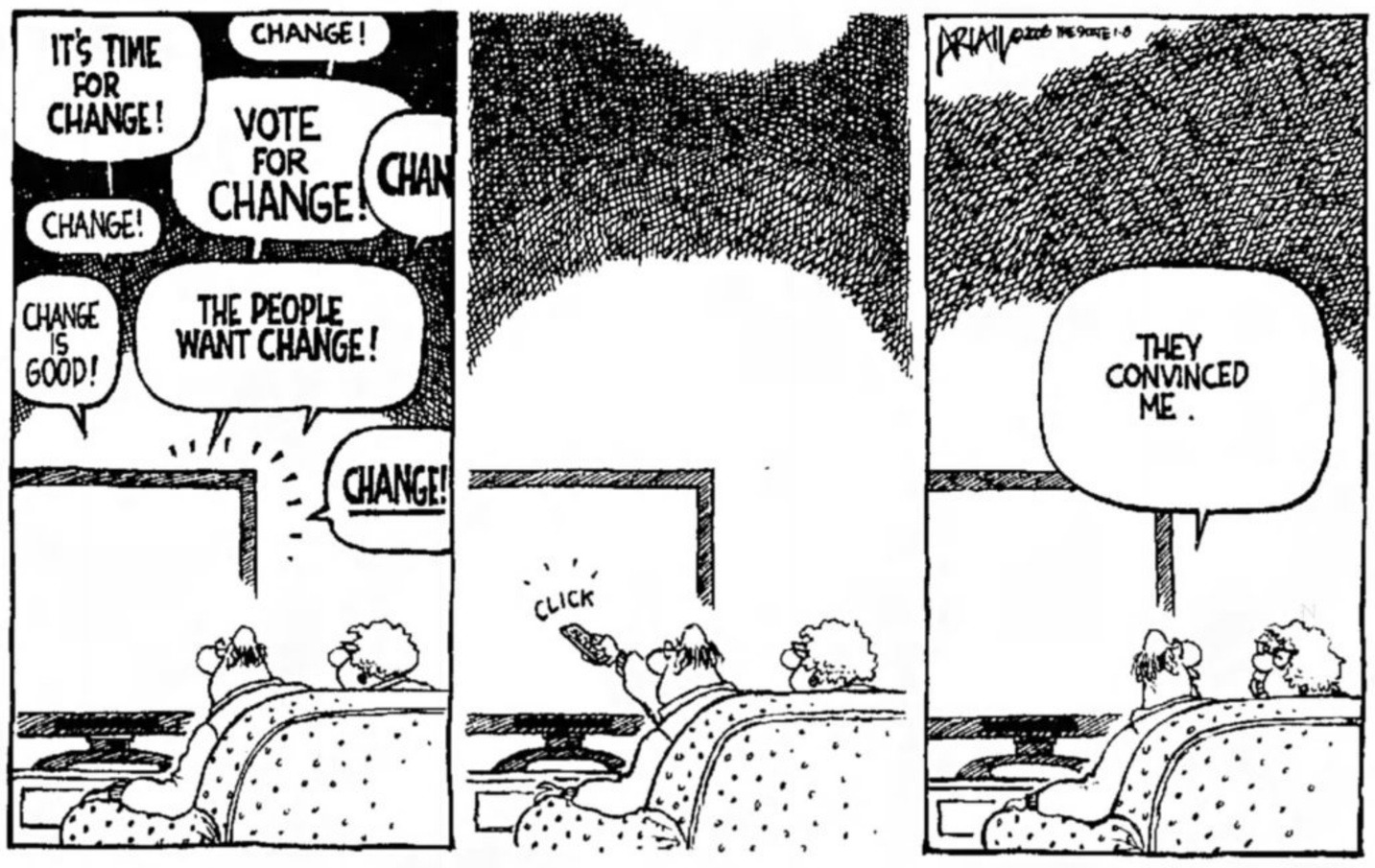
The value of the latter depends on what is meant by free-market capitalism. Private ownership by an occupant who works the land and intends to preserve it for his heirs is a great system. Private ownership by an absentee corporation that intends to extract the maximum amount of profits in the shortest possible time without regard for the future is a bad system. Business expansion financed by savings and retained earnings is good; business expansion financed by loans and highly leveraged financial schemes is not so good.

The theory that the selfish man working for his own profit "accidentally" creates benefits for others is much more limited than we are led to believe. To expect corporate executives to be good citizens and conservators is, with rare exceptions, to expect the highly unlikely. As an English clergyman once put it, the trouble with corporations is that they have neither a body to kick nor a soul to damn. All the pressure on the corporate executive is to make a profit and to boost the stock's value. The welfare of employees, who have been reduced to "human resources," is not a consideration. We are seeing more and more corporate executives willing to close their American plants and contract out their manufacturing to cheap-labor countries. This increases corporate profits, but it reduces the standard of living for Americans.

Private capitalists are notorious for demanding favors from communities in exchange for promises of jobs — promises that often are broken. They are equally notorious about shifting their costs onto the public. Substituting plastic and aluminum containers for reusable glass bottles is a prime example. Glass bottles were recycled by the manufacturer. Plastic and aluminum are recycled by the public or stored in public dumps.

Perhaps we should find some biologists to run for public office rather than lawyers and businessmen. Both the House and the Senate could stand a little juicing up of its average IQ and knowledge base.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.



Is America ready for a black president?

William **RUSHER**

The sweeping victory of Barack Obama in Iowa's Democratic primary seems to have generated a kind of electric shock among political observers.

Suddenly it seems possible, allegedly for the first time, that a black candidate may actually be able to win a presidential nomination and then go on to take the White House in November.

Actually, it isn't all that novel an idea. As recently as 2000 it seemed entirely reasonable that Gen. Colin Powell might seek the Republican nomination, and receive it. And if he had, there were plenty of observers (the present writer among them) who thought he had an excellent chance of being elected president. It was reportedly only his wife's adamant opposition to the idea (she was convinced he would be assassinated) that prevented him from trying.

The idea of a black person becoming president of the United States, therefore, is no earth-shaking novelty. It is true that democracies tend to choose as their leaders people drawn from their dominant ethnic category, which in the case of the United States is still overwhelmingly white. But this is a notoriously pluralistic society, and black Americans have already made their mark in almost every aspect of public life, including both business and politics.

There have been innumerable black business executives and politicians — so many, in fact, that the possibility of a black president has been a reality for years.

What has prevented it from happening before now is a simple fact of political life: That voters tend to vote for candidates with whom they can, in some way, personally identify — someone of roughly the same political views (of course), the same economic background (a small businessman or whatever) or the same ethnic roots. There is nothing sinister about this, and the rule is subject to all sorts of saving exceptions.

What confronts us in the case of Obama, therefore, is not some unprecedented or unthinkable lesion in the political universe, but simply the incidental fact that he happens to be black, and that is hardly momentous. The real question with Obama, as with any serious contender for the presidency, is his qualifications for the job. And it is here, I submit, that he turns up seriously short.

His first political office was as an Illinois state senator — a post he held for eight years, from 1996 to 2004. He then won the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate, and was elected that November. He has served in the Senate for a little over two years. That is his entire record in public office, and on that basis he now seeks to become president of the United States.

What would we be thinking of Obama today, if he were white instead of black? Am I being hypercritical to suggest that such a record sounds like a pretty thin basis for a presidential campaign? Eight years in Springfield, Ill., and two in Washington?

Yet, because he has done well in the early presidential primaries, we are invited to disregard his anemic record. True, he has been running largely against Democratic old-timers: Hillary Clinton, who has been a fixture on the Washington scene since 1992, and John Edwards, a former U.S. senator who is seeking his party's presidential nomination for the second time. But Obama has no significant achievements in Washington to his credit, and whatever he did for Illinois in its state senate in eight years can be left for the citizens of that state to contemplate.

Obama

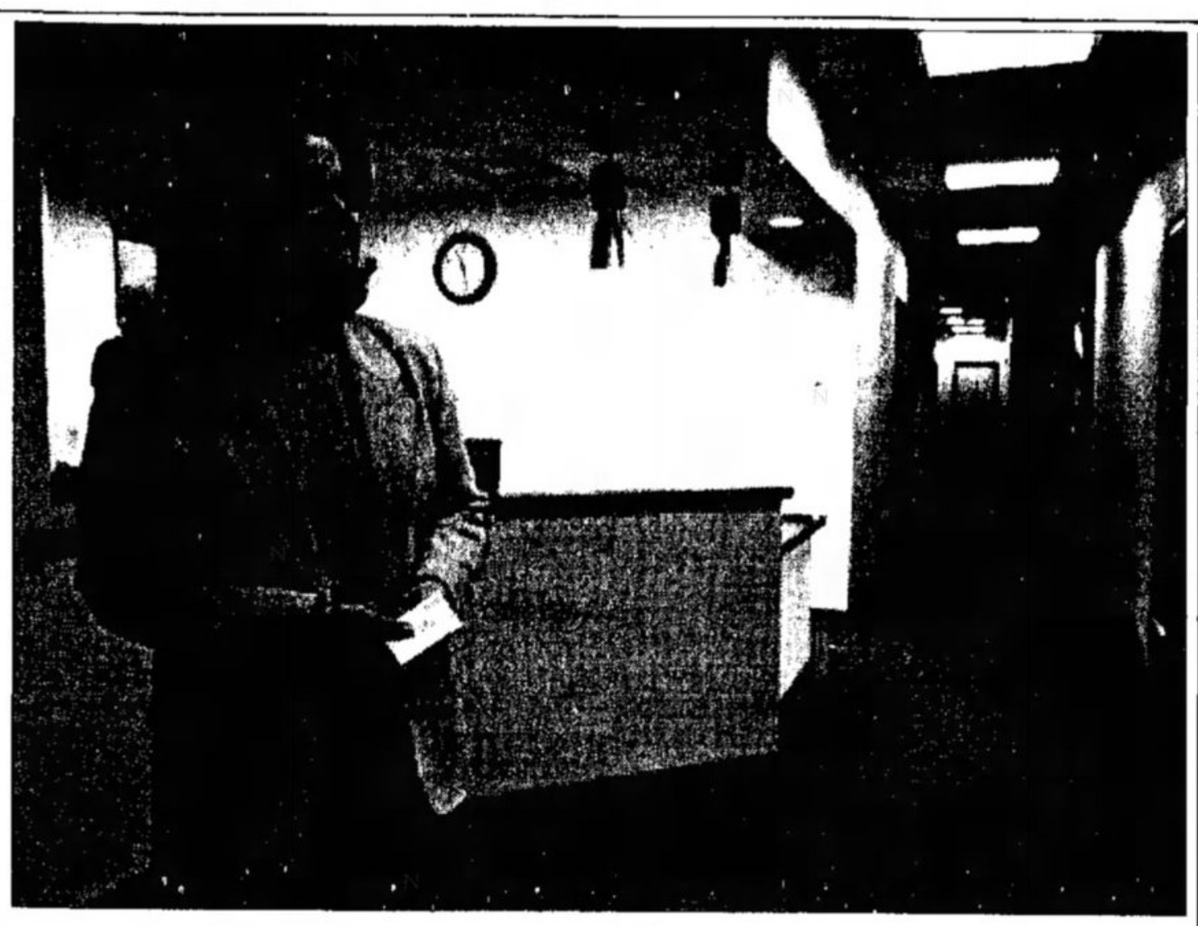
In short, it's difficult to see anything in Obama's record that qualifies him for serious consideration as a presidential candidate, and we are left to conclude that his major asset is what we are all highmindedly supposed to disregard in evaluating him: the fact that he is black. And that alone, I submit, is simply not enough.

William Rusher is a Distinguished Fellow of the Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy.

WCCC debuts Fayette center

Uniontown complex offers variety of educational opportunities.

By MARK HOFMANN
For The Valley Independent
mhofmann@tribweb.com



John F. Brothers/For The Valley Independent

Marian Chambers, the coordinator of Westmoreland County Community College's new Fayette County Education Center in Uniontown, says plenty of space means the center is "just scratching the surface at the potential here."

Rebecca Cunningham says she's undecided about what course of college study to pursue. She hasn't narrowed down a major, although she's leaning toward travel tourism. She's also thinking about attending Gettysburg College.

So the 18-year-old Dunbar resident plans to take her English and computer classes along with other basic, required courses at Westmoreland County Community College's Fayette County Education Center.

"This is closer to my house and provides a lot of options," Cunningham said Thursday, the first day of classes at the new center in Uniontown.

In addition to building enough credits to transfer to a four-year college or university, students also have the option of getting an associate's degree.

Kate Frederick, 22, of Northern Cambria, Cambria County, is also attending the classes at the center because of the location. She's considering enrolling at Waynesburg University some day to study elementary education.

The center has a distance-learning classroom where students can interact via video and audio with a classroom at another campus, a computer lab with 18 state-of-the-art computers, and two other classrooms with computer-based projectors for teachers, professional academic and financial aid providers.

There are also three computers stations and another that is handicapped-accessible to enable students to register.

There's a room for books that can be purchased online and shipped via college courier from the main campus near Youngwood to Fayette County.

"Our objective is to meet the students' needs," said Marian Chambers, the education center coordinator at the facility located at 140 N. Beeson Blvd.

"There are more opportunities for students," Chambers said. "It's very exciting."

Plans for the center include a reception area with a hired receptionist, a lounge area, and an office for faculty to meet with students one on one.

"We're just scratching the surface at the potential here," Chambers said of the section of the second floor that formerly housed the offices of the Fayette County Community Action Agency. "We really do have quite a bit of space."

Along with making much of the center handicapped-accessible, Chambers said they also cater to the needs of students taking an online course without a computer. "They can take their online courses at the center and nontraditional students can take a longer class one day or night a week to fit in with their work schedule."

With the start of the spring semester, enrollment stands at 112 students, surpassing the goal of 100. About 15 classes ranging from accounting and biology to human services and speech are available.

"Students can come here, get their education and save money," Chambers said. "It's important to help a student reach their dream."

POLICE LOG

Monessen

■ Cathy Stoffer, 42, and Richard Stoffer, 49, both of 657 Reed Ave., Monessen, were each charged with disorderly conduct and public drunkenness after an incident 12:15 a.m. Tuesday at their residence.

■ A 17-year-old Monessen male cited for harassment after an incident 4:06 p.m. Wednesday on Graham Avenue.

■ A 15-year-old Monessen female was charged with retail theft of $6.38 in merchandise from Foodland on Donner Avenue after an incident there 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Rostraver Township

■ Two 16-year old Belle Vernon males were charged with retail theft in relation to an incident 7:50 p.m. Jan. 2 at Gabriel's. Police said each of the teenagers stole $17 worth of merchandise.

■ Sarah Webb, 25, of 420 Green St., Brownsville, was charged with disorderly conduct in relation to an incident 10:50 a.m. Dec. 22 at Rostraver Central Fire Department.

■ Iona J. Runkle, 33, of 1121 Mars Hill Road, Sutersville, was charged with retail theft of $80 in merchandise 2:46 p.m. Dec. 23 at Wal-Mart.

■ Justin Andrew Hall, 18, of 123 Flack Road, Belle Vernon, was charged with theft by deception, receiving stolen property and sale of tobacco in relation to an incident Jan. 4 at Sheetz on Route 51.

■ Garret Richard McCloy, 19, of 519 Railroad St., Stockdale, was charged with theft in relation to an incident Dec. 22 at Sweeney's Cafe. Police said McCloy, a Sweeney's employee, stole $140 from a safe at the business.

■ Shawn Thomas Calcagni, 46, of 114 Naylor Drive, Belle Vernon, was charged with one felony count of retail theft in relation to an incident 12:14 p.m. Saturday at Shop 'n' Save. Although Calcagni allegedly stole only $1.69 in merchandise, he was charged with a felony because of prior retail theft convictions, police said.

■ Christopher G. Olexa, 22, of 915 Somerset St., Monessen, was charged with driving under the influence and two traffic violations in relation to an incident 3:12 a.m. Jan. 1 on Vance DeiCas Highway.

■ Theodore R. Bair, 24, of 625 Burke Way, Apt. B, North Versailles, was charged with driving under the influence and two traffic violations in relation to an incident 3:39 a.m. Dec. 19 on Route 51.

■ Wayne Lee Hill, 47, of 411 Snyder St., Connellsville, was charged with theft by deception, receiving stolen property, criminal attempt and criminal conspiracy in relation to an incident 12:15 p.m. Dec. 13 at Ollie's. Police said Hill fraudulently used a traveler's check worth $500.

California

■ Shannon Kidney, 22, of Bethel Park, was charged with simple assault, harassment and disorderly conduct for allegedly fighting with her roommate at 5:54 a.m. Tuesday at their Fourth Street apartment. She was arraigned, released on $1,500 unsecured bond and ordered to stay away from the apartment.

Teenager injured in West Newton crash

An unidentified teenage boy was flown to a Pittsburgh hospital after a one-vehicle wreck Thursday in West Newton.

According to Westmoreland County 911, the wreck occurred about 5 p.m. on East Main Street.

J.T. Anthony, West Newton fire chief, said the car sheared a telephone pole before it overturned. "The car was on its side and we had a telephone poll and wires on the ground all over the place," he said.

ACADEMIC LEAGUE

MATCH SCORES
JANUARY 7, 2008

Junior Varsity

California 22
Char-Houston 20

Beth-Center 33
Charleroi 28

Washington 32
Frazier 25

Bentworth 33
Monessen 19

Varsity

Char-Houston 31
California 26

Charleroi 57
Beth-Center 6

Washington 37
Frazier 24

Monessen 21
Bentworth 21

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Junior Varsity

Bentworth	12.5
Beth-Center	12
California	10.5
Charleroi	10
Washington	9.5
Char-Houston	8.5
Monessen	6
Frazier	3

Varsity

Charleroi	18
Washington	17
Frazier	10.5
Char-Houston	6.5
Bentworth	6
Monessen	5
Beth-Center	4.5
California	4.5

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

Junior Varsity

Zack Meharey	Charleroi	124
Alex Antonio	Beth-Center	122
Samantha Ritzer	Bentworth	112
Ian Abrahamsen	Monessen	90
Andrew Bell	Washington	76
Abigail Hancher	Char-Houston	64
Jimmy Conkle	Washington	52
Mary Sears	California	48
James Novobilsky	Frazier	46
Jade Lewls	Monessen	46

Varsity

Jen Tharp	Charleroi	138
Zach James	Washington	72
Steven Toth	Frazier	62
Jenna Boyles	Frazier	50
Ross Widenor	Char-Houston	44
Andrew McCormick	Washington	44
Megan Silbaugh	California	38
Alyssa Caltuna	Beth Center	34
Megan Engle	Washington	30

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✓ Acid Reflux
✓ Multiple Sclerosis
✓ Muscular Degeneration
✓ Lupus
✓ Circulation
✓ Fatigue
✓ PMS
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Unhappy wife laments lack of affection in her marriage

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: "Wilbur" and I have been together for 25 years, married for nine.

During that time we have been through almost everything.

Abby, I am disappointed in the man Wilbur has turned out to be.

He does nothing around the house.

He does hold a job, but that's the beginning and the end of it.

On top of that, Wilbur shows me no affection. He doesn't hug or kiss me, and he sleeps with a pillow between us.

I realize he was never very lovey-dovey, but now there is no affection at all.

I dream about being close to a man, having a companion with whom to enjoy things in life — simple things like going for coffee together after walking through a flea market holding hands.

Our lives have been intertwined for a quarter of a century.

I feel there's nowhere for me to go.

How does someone in my situation find happiness? **— DISILLUSIONED IN MILFORD, CONN.**

DEAR DISILLUSIONED: You and Wilbur may have been together for 25 years, but it appears you parted ways a long time ago.

In order for there to be sex and affection, there has to be some sort of intimacy — and by that, I mean communication.

I suggest you begin by asking Wilbur what has happened to your relationship.

f he's willing to talk, with the help of a marriage counselor you may be able to fix what has gone wrong.

I can't promise you passion, but at least you won't be acting like cellmates.

If Wilbur is unwilling to cooperate, then the time has come to ask yourself if this is how you want to spend the rest of your life.

Are you better off with him or without him?

If you decide to stick it out because you "have nowhere to go," you may have to do a lot of sublimating.

Spend as much time as you can with people (or animals) that will return the warmth you crave.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mom with four kids. My oldest son is dating a sweet girl I'll call "Renee." The problem is she's always at my house. She's here when I return from work in the evenings and every weekend.

While I don't mind Renee's presence, I am finding it difficult to constantly feed her. I can no longer take my children out to eat without offering to include her, and she always accepts. When I grocery shop, I am now shopping for five kids instead of just my four.

How do I handle this without hurt feelings? Renee's family has very little money, and sometimes there's not much food in their house.

Frankly, I feel sorry for her, but I'm struggling to feed my own kids on my salary.

I know the lack of food at Renee's house isn't my problem, and I feel horrible for thinking the way I do.

Please help. — **STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR STRETCHED: Talk to your son, specifically about your budget. It will then be up to him to set some limits with his girlfriend. Frankly, the fact that the two of them are together every night and every weekend concerns me, because too much alone time could lead to yet another mouth to feed.

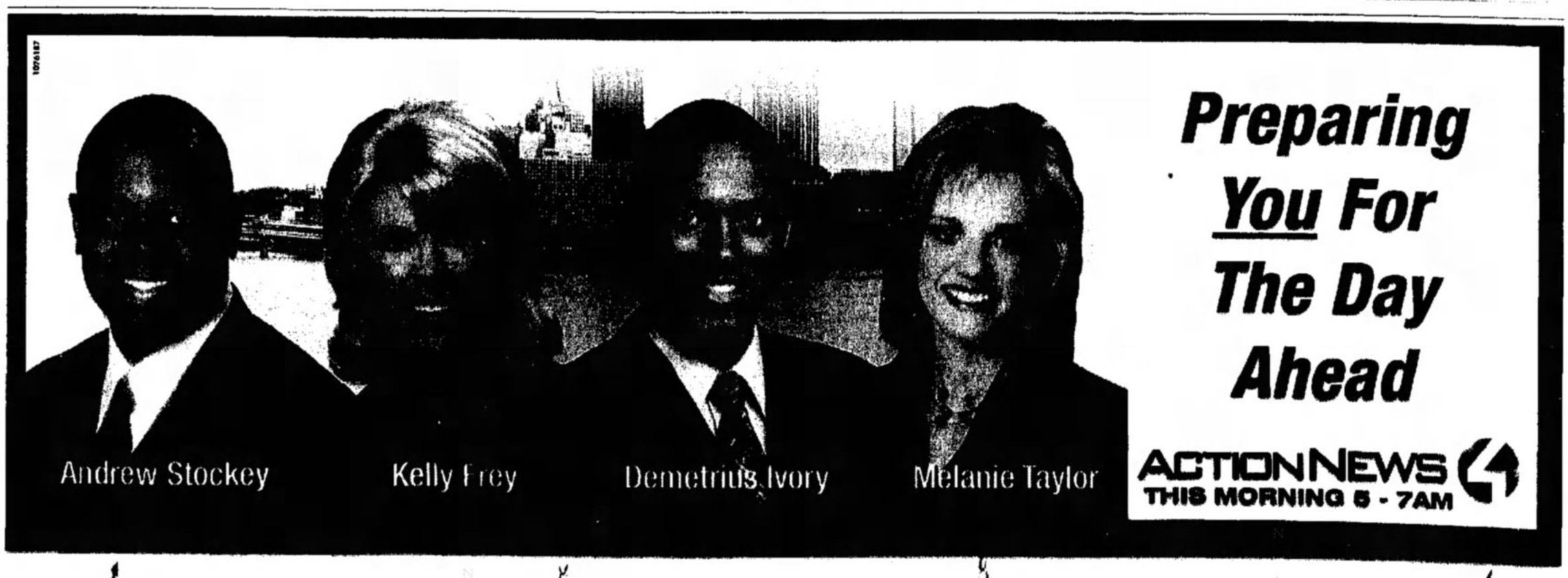
Because food is a problem at Renee's house, it would be a kindness to speak to Renee's mother about seeking aid for dependent children to be sure they have adequate nutrition. The place for her to start would be the county department of social services to see if they qualify.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

FRIDAY EVENING — JAN. 11, 2008

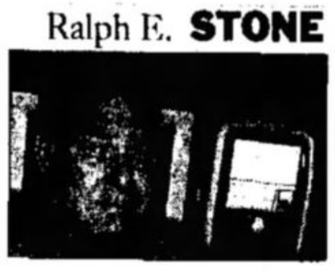
	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	News (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric/ (7) Entertainment/ (10) Inside	(2) The Insider/ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) Two and a Half Men "Pilot"	Ghost Whisperer "Slam" Melinda tries to uncover the reason behind hauntings at Ned's new school. (N)		Moonlight "Love Lasts Forever" A vindictive drug lord kidnaps Josh. (N)		NUMB3RS "Breaking Point" Charlie works on the case of a missing investigative journalist. (N)		News (N)	Late Show With David Letterman Tracy Morgan; Dropkick Murphys. (N)		The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Alec Baldwin. (N)		(2) Extra/ (7) The Insider/ (10) Everybody Loves Raymond "The Shower"	(2) (10) Paid/ (7) That '70s Show Red offers Hyde a new job.	(2) Paid/ (7) H2O Vac V 4C/ (10) AutomotiveVision.TV (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) The Insider (N)	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition (N)/ (23) Jeopardy! (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight/ (23) Wheel of Fortune	Grey's Anatomy "Lay Your Hands on Me" Bailey's family faces a medical trauma.		Cashmere Mafia "Conference Call" Mia must fire her mentor; Caitlin gets serious about her new girlfriend.		20/20 The pursuit of happiness; happiness committees in corporate America. (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	Nightline (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live		(4) Oprah Winfrey/ (23) Paid	(23) Paid	(4) Paid/ (23) Jerry Springer (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight The Golden Globes. (N)/ (9) (11) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N)/ (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune	1 vs. 100 Sommore, Ross Mathews, Richard Rubin, Oscar the Grouch and the Dahm Triplets. (N)		Friday Night Lights "Jumping the Gun" Colleges pressure Brian for a verbal commitment. (N)		Las Vegas "3 Babes, 100 Guns and a Fat Chick" Bounty hunters and FBI agents descend on the Montecito. (N)		News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N)		Late Night With Conan O'Brien (N)		Last Call With Carson Daly Adam Carolla; Alicia Keys.	Poker After Dark Gavin Smith, David Oppenheim; Erick Lindgren; Phil Ivey; Doyle Brunson; Daniel Negreanu. (N)	
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show/ (53) Frasier	(8) Seinfeld/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld "The Latter" Jerry breaks up with his girlfriend.	Bones "The Priest in the Churchyard" Brennan must identify and help reinter the remains that litter a cemetery.		House "The Mistake" Chase's treatment of a patient who died comes under scrutiny.		(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)		(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Seinfeld	(8) Frasier/ (53) Scrubs		(8) Firestorm/ (53) Scrubs Dr. Cox hits the bottle.	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(53) Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Paid/ (53) Cheaters
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OffQ	Washington Week (N)	NOW on PBS (N)	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		Rolling		Charlie Rose (N)			OffQ	Tavis Smiley (N)	Live From Lincoln Center (N)		Mystery! "Inspector Lynley: A Traitor to Memory"
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N)				The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim		That '70s Show	King of the Hill	South Park	Paid	Paid
(22) WPMY	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	★★½ Jason's Lyric (1994)				TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent			Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4		More Dreams Mohammed		Rescuers	Life Message	In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley		CBN News	Richard and Lindsay Roberts		TV One Life		The Zone	Extreme Life	Ultimate	Pure Passion
(59) WBGN	Temptation	Temptation	Degrassi	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	The Collector		ReGenesis "The Promise"		Reno 911!	Blind Date		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami "Identity"		CSI: Miami "Big Brother"		CSI: Miami "Bait"		CSI: Miami "Extreme"		The Sopranos "In Camelot"			CSI: Miami "Big Brother"		CSI: Miami "Bait"		CSI: Miami "Extreme"	
ABCFAM	★★★ Remember the Titans (2000)					★★★ Remember the Titans (2000)					The 700 Club			Whose Line?	Whose Line?	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
AMC	★★★ Blazing Saddles (1974)				★★★★ Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)						★★★½ The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)					★ Frankenstein Meets the Space Monster			Close-3rd
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter		Orangutan	Orangutan	Orangutan	Orangutan	Orangutan	The A-List (N)	Miami Animal Police		Orangutan	Orangutan		Orangutan	The A-List	Miami Animal Police		Orangutan	Orangutan
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares		BBC World News America		Coupling	Coupling "Remember This"		Tate	BBC World News America		Coupling	Coupling "Remember This"		Tate		Coupling	World	The Graham Norton Show	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)			Back in the Day (2001)					Girlfriends	Girlfriends	Hell Date	Hell Date		Jamie Foxx	Jamie Foxx	Crank Dat Year Back		BET Late	
BRAVO	Make Me a Supermodel		Make Me a Supermodel		★★½ Shall We Dance? (2004)				★★★ School Ties (1992) Premiere.					★★ National Lampoon's European Vacation (1985)				★★½ Shall We Dance?	
CMT	Cable Guy	Simon Cowell	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Home Videos	Redneck Wed	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos		Home Videos	Redneck Wed	Wilson Uncut	Simon Cowell	CMT Music	
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow & Company		Fast Money	Net Worth	The Suze Orman Show		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money			The Suze Orman Show		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Paid	Paid
CNN	The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Out in the Open		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360					Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	★★½ Orange County (2002)		Scrubs	Scrubs	Daily Show	Colbert	Futurama	Futurama	Presents	Presents	Presents	Presents		Presents	South Park	★★ Dysfunktional Family (2003)			
COURT	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	Most Shocking		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Power, Privilege & Justice		Murder by the Book			Most Shocking		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Power, Privilege & Justice	
CSPAN	House of Rep.	Tonight From Washington			Presidential Libraries: History Uncovered				Tonight From Washington		Presidential Libraries: History Uncovered					Capital News Today		Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How It's Made	How It's Made	Survivorman		Man vs. Wild		Fight Quest Kyokushin karate.		Fight Quest "Philippines"			Survivorman		Man vs. Wild		Fight Quest Kyokushin Karate.	
DISNEY	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	★★½ Herbie: Fully Loaded (2005) Premiere.				That's-Raven	Life Derek	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana		Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	Dragon	Buzz Light	Timon
E!	Wildest Wed	Chelsea	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Will Smith: Hollywd Story		Snoop Father	Snoop Father	The Soup (N)	Wild Cop	E! News	Chelsea		The Daily 10	The Soup	Girl Next Door	Britney Spears: Fall		Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter			NBA	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at New Orleans Hornets.					NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Los Angeles Lakers.						SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	Tennis: Williams vs. Williams		Missing Link	Missing Link	Boxing		60 Min.	60 Min.	RM Classic Car Auction		Bull Riding PRCA Xtreme.			Boxing: Cobb vs. Shavers		Wrestling	Wrestling	Cheap Seats	Arliss
ESPN2	2007 World Series of Poker		Karate: ISKA Champ.		Boxing: Gatti vs. Robinson		Boxing Friday Night Fights.				SportsCenter			NFL Live (N)	NFL's Greatest Game			Winter X-Games Classix (N)	
EWTN	Divine	Stand	Daily Mass: Our Lady		The World Over		Worth Living	Holy Rosary	Defending	Reasons	Rome Reports	Holy Land		Daily Mass: Our Lady		The World Over		Worth Living	Defending
FNC	Special Report		Fox Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor			Hannity & Colmes		On the Record-Van Susteren		Special Report	
FOOD	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Emeril Live "College Cookin'"		Good Eats	Tasty Travels	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Paula's Party (N)		Good Eats	Unwrapped		Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Paula's Party		Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	Final Score	Savran on SportsBeat		In Focus	FSN Pro Football Preview		Best Damn Bowl Classic (N)		SportsBeat	Final Score	FSN Pro Football Preview			Final Score	Best Damn Bowl Classic		SportsBeat	Final Score	Final Score
FX	★★ Man of the House (2005)				★ The Hot Chick (2002)				★ The Hot Chick (2002)					★★ Man of the House (2005)				Paid	Paid
GOLF	Play Lessons	Lessons-Pros	PGA Tour Golf Sony Open in Hawaii — Second Round. From Waialae Country Club in Honolulu.							Post Game Show		Golf Central		PGA Tour Golf Sony Open in Hawaii — Second Round.					
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Weakest Link		Be a Millionaire		How Much	Family Feud	Family Feud	Chain	Lingo	Whammy		Be a Millionaire		Trivia Trap	Now You See	High Stakes Poker	
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger		★★½ Stone Cold (2005)				Murder, She Wrote			Murder, She Wrote		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Extreme	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House	Designed-Sell	Save My Bath	My Kitchen	Find Style	House	House	Get It Sold	Parents		Designed-Sell	Save My Bath	My Kitchen	Find Style	House	House
HIST	Wild West Tech		Modern Marvels "Harvesting"		Modern Marvels "Engines"		Shockwave		Modern Marvels		Strange Egypt			Modern Marvels "Engines"		Shockwave		Modern Marvels	
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Still Standing	Still Standing	Reba	Reba	Good Naked	Matched	Top Party	Party: Vegas	Good Naked	Good Naked		Matched	Matched	Top Party	Party: Vegas	Top Party	Get Thin
MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		Lockup: Holman		MSNBC Reports		Cheated	5 Thrill Ride		Countdown-Olbermann		Lockup: Holman		Cheated	5 Thrill Ride
MTV	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model			The Real World "Sydney"		Jackass	Jackass	Jackass	Jackass
NICK	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Ned's School	Barnyard	Avatar	Tigre: Rivera	Tak, Power	George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince		Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	★★★ Bend It Like Beckham (2002)					★★★ Bend It Like Beckham (2002)					Bad Girls	Bad Girls		The Tyra Banks Show		Bad Girls	Bad Girls	The Tyra Banks Show	
PCN	PCN Tours		PA Public Affairs											2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show				Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.		News	News	Night[illegible]c: Get to the Point		News		NightTalk With Ann Devlin		Honsberger	Fedko Fone		News			Paid	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Bane"		Haunted "Pilot"		Flash Gordon "Ebb and Flow"		Stargate Atlantis		Stargate Atlantis (N)		Flash Gordon "Ebb and Flow"			Stargate Atlantis		Ghost Hunters International		Stargate Atlantis "Lifeline"	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		When Good Pets Go Bad 2		Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly Conduct: Video			MXC	MXC	Game Head	Game Head	Blood Angels (2005)	
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	★★½ Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (2003)				Sex and City	Sex and City		★★★ My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)				★★½ Housesitter (1992)	
TCM	Act Violnc	★★★ Out of the Fog (1941)			★★½ Earth vs. the Flying Saucers (1956)			★★ Rock Around the Clock (1956)			★★ Cell 2455, Death Row (1955) Premiere.			★★ The Werewolf (1956)				★★½ Death Race 2000	
TLC	Property Ladder		Home Chef	Home Chef	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear "Kelly" (N)		Miss America Reality Check		What Not to Wear "Kelly"			What Not to Wear		Miss America Reality Check		Home Chef	Home Chef
TNT	Law & Order "Evil Breeds"		Law & Order		★★★ Gladiator (2000) A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome.						★★½ What Lies Beneath (2000)						★★★ Panic Room (2002)		
TOON	Camp Lazlo	Foster	★★[illegible] George of the Jungle (1997) Premiere.				George	Jimmy's Head	Chowder	George	Family Guy	Venture Bros.		Metalocalypse	Shin Chan	Ghost in Shell	Eureka 7	Family Guy	Venture Bros.
TRAVEL	Top Mexican Beach Resorts		Caribbean Beach Resorts		Latin America	Latin America	Mysterious Journeys		Most Haunted Alton Towers.		Weird Travels			Latin America	Latin America	Mysterious Journeys		Most Haunted Alton Towers.	
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	★★½ The Jerk (1979) Premiere.					Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Sanford	Jeffersons
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Monk		Law & Order: SVU		Monk (N)		Psych (N)		House "Whac-A-Mole"			Monk		Psych		★★★ Red Dragon (2002)	
VH1	Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Web Junk 40		Celebrity Eye	Britney	Web Junk 40			Celebrity Eye	I Love New York "Reunion"			Celebrity Rehab	
VS.	Outdoor	Dakar High.	Escape	Winchester	Whitetail Rev.	Bucks	Tred Barta	Dangerous	Huntley Way	Quest for One	Whitetail Rev.	Bucks		Tred Barta	Dangerous	Huntley Way	Quest for One	Escape	Winchester
WE	★★½ Look Who's Talking (1989)				Ugliest House on the Block		Ugliest House on the Block		Ugliest House on the Block		John Edward Cross Country			John Edward Cross Country		★½ Abandon (2002)			
WGN	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Funniest Home Videos		RoboCop: Prime Directives Part Three — Resurrection				WGN News at Nine (N)		Scrubs	Scrubs		Chappelle's	Chappelle's	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	Corner Gas
ENC	★★★ A Fish Called Wanda (1988)				★★ Striptease (1996)				★★ From Dusk Till Dawn (1996)					★★½ Child's Play (1988)			★★ Stay Alive (2006)		
HBO	★★★½ King Kong (2005)		Inside the NFL		The Wire "More With Less"		★★ Snakes on a Plane (2006)				Real Time With Bill Maher			Comedy Jam	★★½ Beverly Hills Cop III (1994)			Inside the NFL	
MAX	★★ The Sentinel (2006)		★★½ The Good Shepherd (2006) A founding member of the CIA places duty above family.						★½ Big Daddy (1999)			Coed Confid.		The Texas Chainsaw Massacre			Busty Cops 2: More Cops, Bigger Busts		
SHOW	★★½ Last Holiday (2006)				★★½ Lucky Number Slevin (2006) Premiere.				The L Word "LGB Tease"		★★★½ The Green Mile (1999)							★★½ The Groomsmen	
STARZ	★★★ Friends With Money (2006)			★★★ Bridge to Terabithia (2007)			★★★ Gridiron Gang (2006)				★½ Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (1999)			★★ Fallen (1998) A cop believes that a dead murderer's evil spirit lives on.					
TMC	Neil Young: Heart of Gold		Love Comes to the Executioner (2004)			★½ A Night at the Roxbury (1998)			★½ Kettle of Fish (2006) Premiere.			★★½ The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996)						★★ Hostel (2006)	



Diary of a First Street Rambler

Learning experiences involve girls, God & hockey

Ralph E. **STONE**



Saturday, March 13, 1948
Dear Diary,

Tomorrow is Sunday and I can't wait to go to my new Sunday school class again.

About a month ago, I talked my mom into letting me go to the Methodist Church instead of the First United Presbyterian Church, where we always went.

I didn't tell her all the reasons why I wanted to change churches; I just told her part of the reasons.

The reason I didn't tell her about was that the Methodist Church has a whole bunch of pretty girls.

The reason I gave my mom was that Donny Jones went to church there, and he told me about all the activities they had at the Methodist Church for kids. Jonesy also told me that Denver Rhome was his teacher and that he was a real good Sunday school teacher.

Anyway, my mom knew there wasn't much for kids to do at the Presbyterian Church since Reverend Coleman left, so she said I could go to the Methodist Church.

Jonesy also told me about all the girls, but I didn't tell my mom that part!

Some of these girls include Mary Parkinson, Jo Ann Dawson, Joy Jones, the Kray sisters, Eileen and Joan, and a whole bunch of other really pretty girls. I get to look at all those pretty girls and have fun with Jonesy and the other guys, too.

Besides, there ain't hardly any girls at the Presbyterian Church since Reverend Coleman left.

Now the girls ain't in my Sunday school class 'cause they have the boys and girls separated. But we're all together at the opening of Sunday school and, if you stay for church, you get to see the girls again.

My mom told me I'd start liking younger girls and most of these girls are a grade or two behind me. Maybe mom is right 'cause I think they sure are pretty!

I ain't talking about girls though.

The thing I want to tell you about is my Sunday school teacher. His name is Denver Rhome and he's really a neat guy. He's a funeral director, so you might think he wouldn't be any fun, but that ain't true.

He really makes our classes exciting, and he's probably the best teacher about Bible stuff since I had Reverend Coleman in summer Bible school.

Denver is real good at explaining things like why Jesus had to die on the cross and why it was so important that he rose from the dead.

We were studying about the resurrection in the Gospel of Mark.

Denver showed us from the Bible when Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to visit his tomb and found the rock was rolled away and Jesus' body was gone. Instead, there was another guy there. I guess he was an angel.

Anyway, in Chapter 16, verse 6, this angel says "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen: He is not here."

Denver told us that those three words, "He is risen," are the three most important words in the whole Bible.

He said that if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, he'd of been like any other man.

He wouldn't be any different that guys like Confucious or Mohammed, who started other religions.

But because Jesus rose again, it showed that he was who he said he was, the Son of God. And that He and the Father were the same. Denver explained it real good to us.

Actually, I knew Denver a long time ago, because before he ever got his own funeral home up on McKee Avenue, he used to work for Mr. Woodward in his funeral home.

He told us himself to call him Denver. He said that Mr. Rhome was his father's name and that he was just plain, old Denver.

Anyway, Denver is funny and he makes everything we do and learn fun.

Last Saturday, he took the whole class, five of us, to a Pittsburgh Hornet's hockey game.

It was the first hockey game I ever saw.

Denver explained different things to us about the game. He explained what "icing" meant, and what the red and blue lines were for, and how offside in hockey is different from offside in football.

I still don't like hockey as much as baseball, basketball or football, but it is probably my fourth favorite sport now. It's really exciting, especially when they fight!

There were four really good fights in the game we saw. The best fight was this one with Baz Bastien. He's Pittsburgh's goalie and he made a lot of good saves.

Anyway, Baz really clobbered this guy from Providence who tried to push him into the goal.

By the way, we won, 3 to 2, but without Bastien we would probably have lost.

He's my favorite player and Les Costello, who's my second favorite player, scored two of our goals.

On the way back home, Denver used those hockey fights to tell us about a fight in the Bible that you probably heard about. It was when David, a little shepherd boy, laid out this big giant, Goliath, with a stone and a sling shot. Like I said, Denver makes EVERYTHING interesting.

Author's Notes:

Denver Rhome, as the story indicated, began his career as a mortician at the Woodward Funeral Home, at the corner of First Street and Schoonmaker Avenue. He later opened his own business at the far end of McKee Avenue on the corner of McKee Way.

As his business progressed, he eventually built the Rhome Funeral Home on Grand Boulevard, which still serves the communities of the Mid-Mon Valley.

Denver died several years ago, following a long bout with cancer. I spoke to him just a few weeks prior to his earthly departure, and he was confident of his eternal future through the faith he still had in those three words, "He is risen!"

He will always be one of the several positive role models who enhanced my childhood.

Today, his business is carried on by his son, David, and grandsons, Matthew and Chris.

I was recently hired as a greeter for Rhome's. The entire family faithfully reads these Rambler stories.

Chris presented me with an original "First Street" street sign. It stands in our family room as a proud reminder of my past.

The Pittsburgh Hornets were the Pittsburgh hockey team from 1936 through 1967, when they were replaced by the Penguins. It was long before the Civic Arena, so their games were played at the old Duquesne Gardens until they moved into the arena in 1961.

The Hornets were a minor league team who served the Toronto Maple Leafs. In addition to the goalie, Baz Bastien, and the leading goal scorer, Les Costello, a few other name players of that season included Fleming Mackell and Pete Langells.

I still prefer the sports I grew up with, baseball, basketball and football!

Next Week: Dopey steals the show at St. Leonards

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Here's a rundown on activities scheduled at local senior centers for the week starting Monday:

BROWNSVILLE

Monday – 10:30, games and socializing; 12:30, bingo.

Tuesday – 10, ceramics; 10:30, skat and socializing; 1, bingo.

Wednesday – 10:30, games and socializing; 11:15, sit 'n fit; 11:45, wild pill drawing and lucky five drawing; 1, bowling and bingo.

Thursday – 10:30, skat and socializing; 12:30, cards and bingo.

Friday – 10, skat, pokeno and socializing; 1, bingo.

CENTER IN THE WOODS

Monday – 7:30, walking; 9, massage, beauty shop; 10, watercolor guild; 1, German Club, bridge/500, choir practice; 2, Zumba Gold.

Tuesday – 7:30, walking; 9, beauty shop, Silver Sneakers; 11, blood pressures, Health Steps in Motion (PEPPI); 1, bingo, brige/500, dart ball, news and views.

Wednesday – 7:30, walking; 9, beauty shop; 10:30, Bible study; 1, bridge/500; 1:30, hearing screening; 3, basket guild.

Thursday – 7:30, walking; 8:15, waffle breakfast; 9, beauty shop, Silver Sneakers; 11, PEPPI; 1, bridge/500, bingo, advanced strings jam; 2, Alzheimer's Support Group.

Friday – 7:30, walking club; 9, massage, beauty shop; 1, dart ball, Bible study.

CENTER ON THE HILL

Monday – 10:30, bingo; 11, canasta; 12:45, euchre; 6:30, evening pinochle.

Tuesday – 9:30, video exercise; 10:30, bingo; 11, crafts; 2, massages; 7, evening euchre.

Wednesday – 10:30, blood pressure readings, bingo, Bible study.

Thursday – 8, beauty shop; 9:30, video exercise; 10:30, bingo; 11, writing life stories.

Friday – 8, beauty shop; 10:30, bingo; 11, "Alcohol and Medications"-Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission-Carl Stopperich."

RIVERSIDE PLACE (CHARLEROI)

Monday – 9, scrapbooking; 10, arthritis exercise; 11:30, daily bingo; 1, darts.

Tuesday – 10, computer class; 11, blood pressures; 11:30, daily bingo; 1, movie - "RV."

Wednesday – 11, Silversneakers; 11:30, daily bingo; 1, big bingo.

Thursday – 9, Uniontown Mall trip; 10, arthritis exercise group; 11:30, bingo.

Friday – 10, computer class; 11:30, daily bingo; 12:30, euchre club; 1, Silver Sneakers.

DONORA

Monday – 9, walking; 10, advanced line dancing; 11, "Hold onto your Marbles"-PrimeTime Health; 11:45, bonus bingo; 1:30, bingo.

Tuesday – 9, walking; 10, blood pressures, exercise class; 11:45, bonus bingo; 1, card club, cards and pokeno.

Wednesday – 9, hairdresser, walking; 10, beginner's line dancing; 11:15, "Preserving your Wealth"-Lindsay of Waddell and Reed; 11:45, bonus bingo; 1:30, bingo.

Thursday – 9, hairdresser, walking; 10, fitness class; 11:45, bonus bingo; 1, cards and pokeno; 1:30, Donora Senior Club.

Friday – 9, hairdresser, walking; 10, blood pressures; 11:45, bonus bingo; 1, cards and pokeno.

MONESSEN

Monday – 10, Advisory Board meeting; 1, bingo; card games-"65"/rummy/dominoes.

Tuesday – 10, crochet class; 11:30, "Alcoholism"-speaker Norma Mosser; 1:45, sit 'n fit; card games, "65"/rummydominoes.

Wednesday – 10:30, Bible study with Jim; noon, special meal; 12:30, bridge club; card games-"65"rummy/dominoes.

Thursday – 11, 500 card club; 11:45, sit 'n fit; card games-"65"/rummy/dominoes.

Friday – card games-"65"/rummy/dominoes; dominoes (Mexican Train) morning and afternoon.

MONONGAHELA

Monday 11:30, magic bingo; 1, cards.

Tuesday – 9, craft class; beauty shop by appointment; 10, blood pressures; 11:30, magic bingo; 1, cards, darts.

Wednesday – 10:45, dominos; 11:30, magic bingo, devotional; hairdresser by appointment; exercise group after lunch; 1, cards.

Thursday – 11:30, magic bingo; 1, cards; beauty shop by appointment; 7, evening social.

Friday – 9, fried dough; beauty shop by appointment; 11:30, magic bingo; 1, cards; 1:30, line dancing.

PERRYOPOLIS

Monday – 8, walking; 9, poker club, card club; 10, PEPPI exercises; 1, cards and table games, pickin 'n grinning; jigsaw puzzle assembly morning and afternoon.

Tuesday – 8, walking; 10, pinochle, sing-along; 1, pickin' 'n grinning; jig saw puzzle assembling morning and afternoon.

Wednesday – 8, walking; 9, big bingo; 9:30, bingo; jigsaw puzzle assembly morning and afternoon; 2, jam session.

Thursday – 8, beauty shop, walking; 9, ceramics; 10, PEPPI exercise; jigsaw puzzle assembly morning and afternoon.

Friday – Wear your favorite hat day; 8, beauty shop, walking, 9, bingo, 9:30, bingo; 10, crafts.

SENIOR CENTER MENUS

Here's a look at lunch menus for local senior citizen centers for next week starting Monday:

Center in the Woods, Center on the Hill, Charleroi, Donora, Monongahela and Perryopolis

Monday – chicken sandwich
Tuesday – baked ham
Wednesday – spaghetti and meatballs
Thursday – turkey/swiss sandwich
Friday – chili con carne

Monessen and West Newton

Monday – open face turkey sandwich
Tuesday – spaghetti
Wednesday – barbecued rib patty
Thursday – Swedish meatballs
Friday – pizza slice

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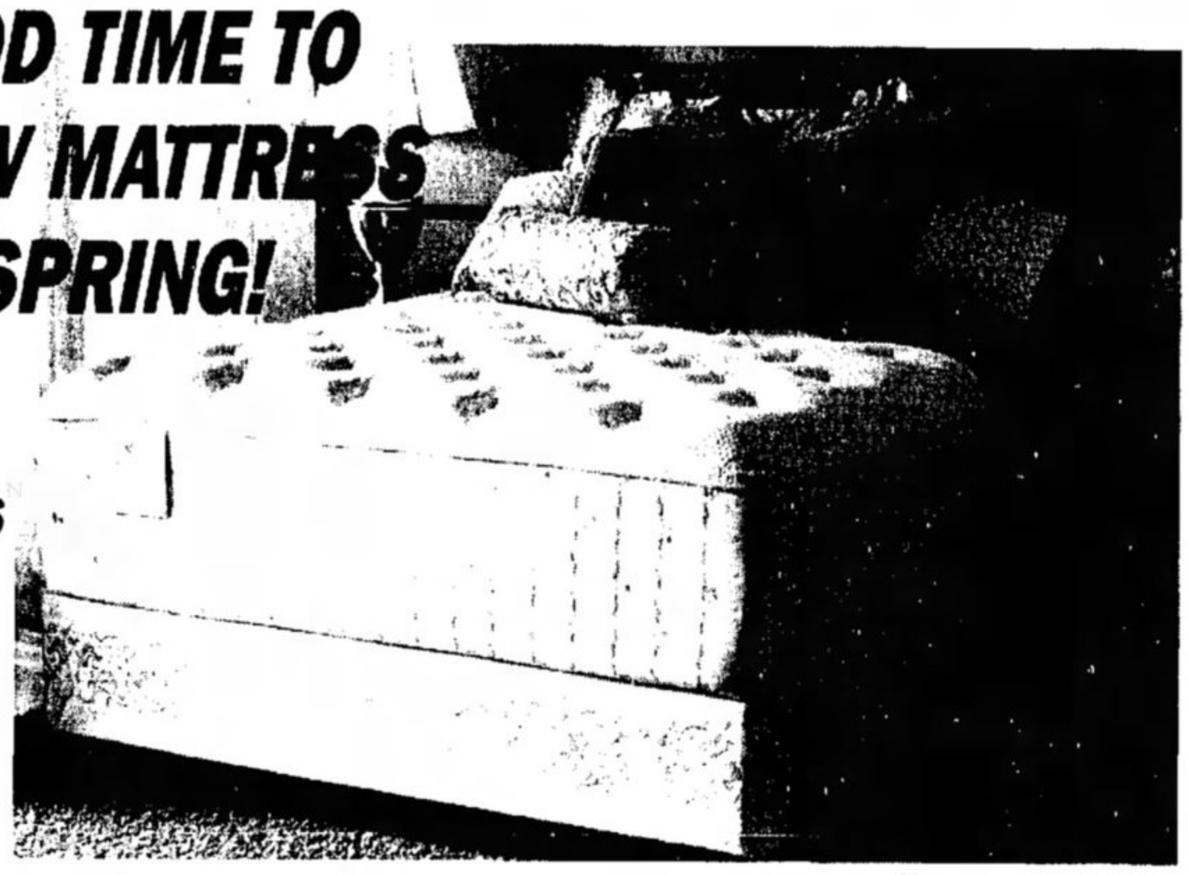

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Patriots back in spotlight

After a week off, New England is ready to put its perfect record on the line in the NFL playoffs. **2B**

Valley SPORTS

Record deal for Ovechkin

The Washington Caps rewarded their star, Alex Ovechkin, with the richest contract in NHL history. **2B**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2008

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Bowman dead

U.S. figure skating champion Christopher Bowman was found dead of a drug overdose in his hotel room. **2B**

Sports Trivia

Who are the only two 1,000-point girl scorers at Monessen that Major Corley didn't coach? **2B**

Last night's scores

New Jersey 4, Carolina 1
Florida 3, Atlanta 2, SO
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Rangers 2
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, SO
Montreal 5, Boston 2
Minnesota 6, Detroit 5, SO
St. Louis 4, Dallas 2

Stranglehold

Monessen blasts Serra early and then coasts to 45-31 win to take control of Class A Sec. 3

First quarter blitz allows Lady Greyhounds to roll.

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

MONESSEN - With 4:05 gone in Monessen's 45-31 win over Serra Catholic in their highly anticipated Class A Section 3 rematch, Serra coach Bill Cleary called a timeout.

How dominant was Monessen in that opening stretch?

Considering the nightmare he and his team had just faced, Cleary had to be hoping he was having a bad dream.

In that opening stretch, Monessen's defense was so tenacious that it forced the Lady Eagles into eight missed shots and four turnovers.

"We started so bad and their defense was superb," Cleary said. "(Christina) Chukwuedo did a good job of shutting down (point guard) Bria (Gwosden). She took Bria right out of the game.

"And once we fell behind early like that, we could not recover."

Monessen coach Major Corley was happy with what he saw defensively from his team in the opening minutes.

"That was some good, tough and strong defense," he said. "We wanted to make sure that they didn't get any good looks from three-point range."

Monessen (15-0, 6-0) played superb perimeter defense all night long as the Lady Eagles (7-4, 3-2) only hit one trifecta.

"That was our game plan," Corley said. "We did not want them getting hot."

Breanne Minardi opened the scoring with 5:38 left in the first quarter as she hit a pair of free throws and Monessen raced out to a 15-3 lead after eight minutes.

Monessen opened up its biggest lead of 19 points (24-5) with 5:58 left in the second quarter on an old-fashioned three-point play by Kelly Mornak.

Mornak, who needed 16 points to reach 1,000 for her career, finished with seven. She needs nine to reach the milestone. Monessen plays Saturday (2:30 p.m.) at Trinity Christian.

Monessen held a 29-13 lead at the half, but the momentum slowly changed to favor Serra in the third quarter.

The Lady Eagles trimmed the Monessen lead to eight (35-27) going into the fourth quarter but never threatened in the last eight minutes.

Corley noted the play of Melissa Popovich (10), Samone Stepoli (10) and Jessica Diggs (eight), who combined for 28 rebounds.

"They were able to play well and they controlled the inside," he said. "That was a key."

Cleary made no excuses and was gracious in defeat in his opinion of Monessen.

"They are athletic, very good and they force shots," he said. "They were able to spread the floor out and with the speed of their guards, they were able to drive off of the dribble.

"That is a very experienced team and they are very good."

The win gives Monessen a two-game cushion in the section race with four contests to go.

Considering that Monessen's remaining section opponents include Trinity Christian, Frazier, Clairton and Avella, it appears that the Lady Greyhounds will grab their first section title since 2004.

"It's time to get another one," Corley said with a smile after the game.

Corley also said that he was going back on a promise he made to the team.

"I am getting my hair trimmed," Corley said making note that he told the team hw would not get it cut until the team lost.

"It looks bad."

GAME NOTES: Chukwuedo led all scorers with 14 points ... Jade Stewart led Serra with seven points ... Popovich left the game early with a wrist or lower arm injury.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Christina Chukwuedo scored a game-high 14 points as Monessen throttled Serra Catholic, 45-31.

Penguin goalie Ty Conklin makes a sprawling save with defenseman Kris Letang trying to help out.

Pens strike Lightning, 4-1

Conklin again sparkles as team ups winning streak to eight game.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Ty Conklin and the Pittsburgh Penguins kept two positive streaks going, and stopped a bad one in the process.

Conklin made 35 saves, Jordan Staal had two goals and an assist, and the Penguins extended their winning streak to eight games with a 4-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday night.

It's the Penguins' longest win streak since a 10-game stretch in January and February 1999. Pittsburgh also stopped a 12-game losing skid against Tampa Bay.

"I think everybody's confident," Conklin said. "It's not one or two guys, it's a team."

Conklin has won nine starts in a rows, while Staal snapped a seven-game goal-scoring drought. Ryan Malone and Evgeni Malkin had third-period goals for Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh's previous win over Tampa Bay came on Jan. 17, 2003.

"I think all teams have pride, and whether it was guys who where here for it or weren't here for it, you don't want to have to talk about it every time either," Pittsburgh All-Star Sidney Crosby said. "For us, we want to be considered a good team at home and on the road. We don't want to be known for having bad games."

Paul Ranger scored for the Lightning, who have lost 11 of 13. Karri Ramo had 25 saves.

"We were trying to gain momentum, but I didn't think we played well enough to win," Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella said.

Crosby had his nine-game point streak end. He had 13 assists and 16 points over the stretch. Tampa Bay's Vincent Lecavalier, who will also be an All-Star starter, was held without a point.

"We both had some opportunties and didn't bury them," Lecavalier said.

Lecavalier had six shots. Crosby finished with four.

Staal's two second-period goals gave the Penguins a 2-1 lead. He redirected Petr Sykora's shot for a power-play goal to tie it at 12:11. The center then made it 2-1 from in close at 14:33 after Sykora sent the puck off the side of the net from the corner along the goal line

"We had a great first and the second period was flat ... I don't know why," Lightning defenseman Shane O'Brien said.

Staal, who had 29 goals in his rookie campaign last season, has just five this season.

Ranger put the Lightning up 1-0 at 4:11 of the second. Conklin had been knocked to the ice and was on his back when Ranger scored.

Conklin stopped 13 shots in the first, including a diving save on Lecavalier's shot from the low right circle. Ramo turned aside Crosby's backhander, one of eight first-period saves.

"He's playing outstanding for us," Pittsburgh coach Michel Therrien said of Conklin. "That's a big surprise. He got a chance, he got an oportunity to be back in the NHL and he's certainly trying to take full advantage of it."

Tampa Bay had six shots during a 4-minute power play early in the third. Conklin stopped Martin St. Louis' backhander, and also got a break when Filip Kuba's shot from the left circle hit the post.

"It's frustrating," Kuba said. "It's how it's going right now for us."

Malone made it 3-1 on his goal with 2:39 left in the third. Malkin added an empty-netter with 11.5 seconds to go.

Ringgold girls stay hot

The Ringgold girls' basketball team boasts one of the top defenses in the WPIAL.

That's one of the main reasons the Lady Rams are among the WPIAL's hottest teams.

Ringgold finished the first half of Class AAA Section 4 play in first place at 5-0 with a 48-37 victory at West Allegheny Thursday to drop the losers into third place.

The Lady Rams' 11th straight win didn't come easy since Ringgold trailed 20-18 at halftime.

It was in the third quarter that the Lady Rams turned on their defense and turned off the Lady Indians.

Ringgold limited West Allegheny to six points when the Lady Rams took a 30-26 leads into the fourth quarter.

Alina Selby led Ringgold (12-2) with a game-high 16 points and also had six rebounds and five assists.

Selby also had plenty of support from Emily Schartner, Jennie Affinito and Tabitha Leach.

After failing to score in the first half, Affinito and Schartner both scored six points in the second half while Leach tallied seven of her nine points in the last 16 minutes.

Schartner had a strong all-around game with seven rebounds, six blocked shots, six steals and three assists.

Affinito contributed three assists and three steals with Leach, who missed only

(See RINGGOLD, Page 2B)

Tomlin claims he was just playing to win the game

Steelers coach won't second-guess himself on two-point attempts.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin says if he had it to do all over again, he'd do it all over again.

Yes, he would again call for the two debatable two-point conversion tries. The decision to run the ball on the Steelers' failed final drive, which led to Jacksonville's winning field goal and the Jaguars' 31-29 AFC playoff victory on Saturday.

Tomlin

Yes, that Ben Roethlisberger rollout on third-and-6 from the Pittsburgh 26 with 2:56 to play and the Steelers up 29-28 would be repeated — even though a successful short pass play would have given them the opportunity to run out the clock.

Roethlisberger was stopped for only a 1-yard gain on a quarterback sweep to his left, a play that the Steelers rarely use but which still didn't fool Jaguars safety Sammy Knight. Roethlisberger threw for 337 yards and two scores and the Steelers ran for only 43 yards on 26 carries, yet they called three successive run plays on that final drive.

OK, Tomlin may be second-guessing that play-calling a little.

"Hindsight is 20-15 sometimes," Tomlin said at his end-of-season news conference Thursday. "If you had it to do over, yes, you would love to do that (throw the ball) because the result of the play was not the result we were looking for."

Tomlin's first season as an NFL head coach began well with records of 4-1 and 7-2 but ended with four losses in five games, including their first early round home playoff loss in 15 years.

That's why Tomlin took a few extra days before talking to reporters for one last time this season. "It was an emotional game," he said. "It was a gut-wrenching defeat, but every January defeat I have experienced has been the same."

Tomlin twice gambled by going for two points, rather than kicking the extra point, after the Steelers scored in the fourth quarter to get within 28-23 and again when they went ahead 29-28.

The first time, Tomlin stayed with the two-point conversion even after a holding call on center Sean Mahan pushed the Steelers back to the 12 yard line. On another debatable quarterback keeper, Roethlisberger was stopped at the 3.

"Yes, I'd do it again," Tomlin said. "I throw caution to the wind. I play to win."

Following their go-ahead touchdown four minutes later, the Steelers were trying to go up by 3 points so a field goal wouldn't beat them — which, of course, is exactly what happened when Josh Scobee kicked a 25-yarder with 37 seconds to play.

"We go up by one, there is no need of going up by two," Tomlin said.

On other issues, Tomlin said he:

■ Plans to retain all of his assistant coaches, although it is common for a first-year coach to reassess his staff and make changes.

"Do we need to get better? Do we need to coach better in some areas, all areas? Absolutely," he said.

■ Was concerned — and rightly so, as it proved — about his special teams even before the start of training camp.

As he watched film after being hired nearly a year ago, Tomlin said he realized losing

(See TOMLIN, Page 2B)

SPORTS

Patriots in playoff spotlight

Eight teams are in action this weekend.

By DAVE GOLDBERG
AP Football Writer

After a week out of the spotlight, the New England Patriots are back in its glow. They're three games away from 19-0 and an NFL title, but one loss away from losing a lot of the luster a 16-0 regular season brought them.

That hasn't changed Bill Belichick.

"We've treated it one week at a time all year, so this week it's Jacksonville," the Patriots coach intones. "Each week has it's own unique challenges and that's definitely true this week. I don't think any of those other games really have a whole lot of bearing on this one."

Same old song.

New England rested last week, as did the other top seeds in the NFL's postseason festival: No. 2 Indy and the two top NFC teams, Dallas and Green Bay. They all face first-round winners in the latest test of whether it's better to have momentum or rest.

But the Patriots probably rested less than most.

Even in a bye week, Belichick always gives his players something to work on. That's in contrast to Dallas' Wade Phillips, who told his players to take three days off. So Tony Romo went to Mexico with his celebrity inamorata while the Patriots studied playbooks.

The Patriots have reason to believe that Saturday night's game will be difficult.

Normally, Jacksonville (12-5) depends on Maurice Jones-Drew and Fred Taylor, who was selected to his first Pro Bowl this week as an injury replacement — an honor long overdue. They combined for just 77 yards rushing in Pittsburgh, but Jones-Drew had a 96-yard kickoff return to set up a TD and a 43-yard score on a short pass from Garrard.

Jacksonville probably will have to open up its offense against a team that set a regular-season record with 589 points (almost 37 a game). That, of course, was due to league MVP Tom Brady, who set a record with 50 touchdown passes; Randy Moss, who had a record 23 TD catches; and Wes Welker, who tied for the NFL lead with 112 receptions.

New England's Mike Vrabel smiles as he loosens up before practice.

SAN DIEGO (12-5) AT INDIANAPOLIS (13-3)
(1 P.M. EST SUNDAY)

There has been so much focus on the Patriots that the reigning champion Colts have been low-profile this season, something they don't mind at all. They've also had time to heal injured players, although Marvin Harrison, who's missed much of the season with a knee problem, is still uncertain.

Still, this team may be stronger defensively than any Tony Dungy has had with the Colts. And the offense has been without Harrison for so long that Peyton Manning has gotten used to working with new receivers, notably rookie Anthony Gonzalez.

San Diego also has a problem with one of its stars: TE Antonio Gates, who sprained his big toe last week and is day to day.

The Chargers started 1-3 under Norv Turner, but go to Indy with a seven-game winning streak, including last week's 17-6 first-round victory over Tennessee — one more playoff win than the departed Marty Schottenheimer had with last season's 14-2 team.

The Chargers beat the Colts 23-21 in San Diego on Nov. 11 in a fluky game.

Manning threw six interceptions, San Diego got TDs on punt and kickoff returns by Darren Sproles, and yet the Colts should have won. Adam Vinatieri, the best clutch kicker in NFL history, missed a 29-yard field goal with 1:31 left.

NEW YORK GIANTS (11-6) AT DALLAS (13-3)
(4:30 P.M. SUNDAY)

These teams have played 91 times, although this is the first time they've met in the playoffs.

The Cowboys won both regular-season meetings: 45-35 on opening night and 31-20 at the Meadowlands on Nov. 11. That loss in Dallas is the last time the Giants were beaten on the road. They have won eight straight, including a 24-14 win in Tampa last week, their first playoff victory since they beat Minnesota to go to the Super Bowl following the 2000 season.

They also have more momentum than the Cowboys, who lost two of their last three and got those days off earlier this month. Dallas hasn't won a postseason game since 1996.

Romo, whose relationship with Jessica Simpson seems to interest folks more than his on-field activities, finished poorly: one touchdown and five interceptions in his last two regular-season games. The maligned Eli Manning was much better for the Giants with six TDs and one interception combined in the Tampa Bay win and the near-miss 38-35 loss to New England in the regular-season closer.

Dallas' most pressing problem is the health of Terrell Owens, who has a high ankle sprain. He has practiced this week, but Phillips says his status is a game-time decision. Terry Glenn, out almost all season with knee problems, could help fill the hole, but he could be rusty.

SEATTLE (11-6) AT GREEN BAY (13-3)
(4:30 P.M. SATURDAY)

Mike Holmgren, who won a Super Bowl coaching the Packers, points to last season's overtime loss to eventual NFC champion Chicago to demonstrate why his Seahawks are equipped to play in cold weather.

"No one gave us the slightest chance to even come close and we played a very fine football game; lost the football game, but played a good game and had a chance," he says. "We know the challenges, but it kind of gets you going. It kind of gets the juices flowing a little bit to say, 'OK, here's what we're up against now. Let's see what we can do.' That's a healthy thing. That's a good thing."

The key for Seattle will be to get a rush on Brett Favre. Patrick Kerney was second in the NFL with 14 1/2 sacks and the Seahawks were fourth overall with 45. But traction at Lambeau Field could be a problem; a wet or slippery field often causes defenses as many problems as it causes offenses.

Seattle QB Matt Hasselbeck was once Favre's backup. And in a 2004 playoff game in Green Bay, he was caught by a microphone after the overtime coin flip saying: "We want the ball and we're going to score!"

Ovechkin gets record NHL pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin was unshaved and his mop of hair was in dire need of a comb. He did, however, make one concession after signing the richest contract in NHL history.

He wore a suit. Stashed away were his bizarre color-clashing getups that would make Mr. Blackwell cringe.

"Well," he said with a shrug, "I'm still looking good."

Of course he is. He has a $124 million, 13-year contract extension with the Washington Capitals, a handsome reward for the charismatic, 22-year-old Russian who has been a nonstop goal-scorer since coming to the NHL in 2005.

"I'm happy I stay here," Ovechkin said. "It's my second home. I like the fans. I like the team. I like everything here."

It's not the longest deal in NHL history — Rick DiPietro signed for 15 years with the New York Islanders — and it didn't break the record for largest average salary, but it is the league's first contract to guarantee nine digits of income.

"I'm a risk-taker," said owner Ted Leonsis, who has made Ovechkin the cornerstone of a rebuilding plan to restore the Capitals as a perennial playoff team. "And if you're going to make a long-term investment, who else would you do it with? This takes away any of the issues of how committed we are to winning a Cup, how committed we are to keeping a team together."

The contract will pay Ovechkin $9 million per year for the first six years and $10 million per year for the following seven. A limited-movement clause kicks in after several years that will allow Ovechkin to select a handful of teams at the beginning of each season to which he cannot be traded.

And he won't have to pay an agent a dime. Ovechkin worked out the details himself Thursday afternoon in negotiations with Leonsis and general manager George McPhee. His parents, Tatiana and Mikhail, were also in town for the final round of talks for a deal that runs through the 2020-21 season.

The No. 1 overall pick in the 2004 draft, Ovechkin was in the final season of a three-year, entry-level deal. His salary-cap number for this season, taking into account bonuses, is $3.83 million.

Skating champ Bowman dies of possible overdose

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S figure skating champion Christopher Bowman pleased fans and fellow skaters with his flair on the ice. But he was also known for his off-the-ice struggles with drugs and alcohol and other personal problems.

Now the 40-year-old former skating champ known as "Bowman the Showman" has been found dead at a budget hotel in the San Fernando Valley, and authorities say a drug overdose could be to blame.

Bowman was pronounced dead Thursday at 12:06 p.m., said Coroner's Lt. Joe Bale, who confirmed the death was being investigated as a possible drug overdose, but wasn't immediately able to provide more details. An autopsy was planned for this weekend, he said.

Bowman's body was found by a friend Thursday morning at a Budget Inn in the North Hills area, police Sgt. Francisca Wheeling said.

A desk clerk who answered the phone at the hotel late Thursday declined comment.

"He just passed away in his sleep," Bowman's mother, Joyce, told the Detroit Free Press.

Tomlin (FROM PAGE ONE)

special teams players such as Sean Morey, Mike Logan and Chidi Iwuoma would be a major setback. Also, linebacker James Harrison became a starter and didn't play as much on special teams.

"I wasn't interested in throwing up a red flag and saying, 'Hey, I am worried about special teams,' but obviously I was," Tomlin said. "A special teams unit is comprised of four or five core guys ... It would be the equivalent of losing seven, eight, nine starters on an offensive or defensive unit."

Kick coverage must improve next season, he said, but there "are not enough dynamic playmakers that you can build a core unit around."

■ Thinks the Steelers currently are "a good team. That's what 10-6 teams are, what division champions are. We've got to be great."

■ Is convinced the offensive and defensive lines most need an infusion of younger players.

"The protection of our quarterback has to improve," Tomlin said, referring to the 47 sacks of Roethlisberger.

■ Hasn't written off losing All-Pro guard Alan Faneca, who can become a free agent, but "maybe the door is closing."

■ Isn't confident that the Steelers will be big players in free agency and believes most of their new players will arrive in the draft.

"When you have quality, you have to pay for that," he said.

■ Said his first season as a head coach didn't go "as well as I would have liked."

"One of the things that has bugged me since Saturday night are people with great intentions saying, 'Great start' and 'great year,' " he said. "I appreciate that, but I am not wired like that. Not that I am a negative guy, a melancholy guy. ... (But) there is something we are chasing here and we never will cease that chase."

■ Wouldn't disclose, for now, whether the Steelers will eventually switch from a 3-4 defense to a 4-3. He also wouldn't say if he favors yanking up Heinz Field's often-mushy grass and putting down artificial turf.

Hines Ward has surgery

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward underwent surgery to repair a partially torn meniscus in his right knee and will need about six weeks of recovery time before beginning offseason workouts.

The surgery was done Wednesday, but was not disclosed until coach Mike Tomlin's season-ending news conference Thursday.

Ward missed three games this season because of the injury, including the Dec. 30 game at Baltimore. He returned to make a game-high 10 catches for 135 yards in the Steelers' 31-29 AFC playoff loss to Jacksonville on Saturday.

Until this season, Ward had missed only three games due to injury during his 10-season NFL career. Ward has a team record 719 career catches.

Tomlin said Pro Bowl safety Troy Polamalu may need surgery on his right knee, but will wait to see if rest cures the problem.

SPORTS DIGEST

BV Area swimmers sweep W. Mifflin

Belle Vernon Area High's swimmers swept West Mifflin Thursday.

The Leps were an 81-58 winner with the Lady Leps taking an 88-80 decision.

Andre Maldonado (50 freestyle and 100 backstroke), Zachary Wardle (200 IM), Aaron Mikula (100 fly), Brendan Lcey (500 freestyle) and the 400 freestyle relay team of Wardle, Cory Wyke, Maldonado and Lacey took firsts for the Leps.

Cory Wyke finished second in the 100 backstroke with a WPIAL qualifying time.

Ashley Bronakowski (200 freestyle), Sydney Rusak (100 freestyle) and the 400 freestyle relay team of Emalee Tunney, Allison Radic, Bronakowski and Mary Wardle won for the Lady Leps.

BV Area cagers down Washington

Belle Vernon Area Middle School's basketball team upped its record to 10-3 with a 38-22 win over Washington.

Ian Dobbins (14) and Adam Ferita (10) combined for 24 points to outscore the Little Prexies.

BVA is home with McGuffey Monday.

Bucs break ground on Dominican site

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates will break ground on their new baseball academy in the Dominican Republic on Jan. 22.

The academy will be built on a 46-acre site in El Toro recently purchased by the team. It will serve as the headquarters for the Pirates' Latin American operations and as the base for their Dominican Summer League team.

The Pirates decided to build the academy after team officials found their current Dominican Republic camp to be inadequate.

"This new facility and our renewed commitment to the international markets are critically important to achieving our goal of building a ballclub that can compete on a regular basis," principal owner Bob Nutting said.

Last season, former Pirates reliever Salomon Torres said the club reneged on a promise to rent one of two training camps he built in the Dominican Republic. Torres now rents his complexes to the Texas Rangers and Atlanta Braves.

Torres subsequently withdrew a grievance he filed, charging he accepted less money in his current contract in exchange for the Pirates' pledge to rent his camp. Torres has since been traded to Milwaukee.

Ringgold skaters blank Trinity, 8-0

Sean Whiten scored five goals in Ringgold's 8-0 hockey win over Trinity Thursday.

Andy Tabory, Erik Vogt and Nicolas Scabollini had the other goals for the Rams (5-9).

Goalie Dustin Tanner made 30 saves for the shutout.

Jones' sentencing scheduled today

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Disgraced Olympian Marion Jones is asking a federal judge to keep her out of prison, but the only real question may be how much time she gets.

Jones, who apologized, retired and gave up her five Olympic medals after admitting she lied about steroids and a check-fraud scheme, was to be sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Kenneth Karas in White Plains.

Her lawyers have told the judge that Jones has been punished enough and should be sentenced only to probation, or perhaps be confined to her home. Prosecutors are not insisting on prison time either, saying any sentence between probation and six months would be fair.

But Karas hinted that he was focused on incarceration when he asked the lawyers to advise him about whether he could go beyond the six-month maximum that was suggested in her plea deal. He also wanted to know whether he could sentence Jones separately for the steroids and check fraud convictions. Both sides advised against it.

Trivia answer

Melanie Moskola and Leenie Grant.

Outland Trophy to LSU's Dorsey

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — After capping his college career earlier in the week with a national title, LSU tackle Glenn Dorsey was properly sent off by his former Tigers defensive coordinator, new Nebraska coach Bo Pelini.

Pelini, who coached the Tigers' defense in LSU's 38-24 victory over Ohio State in the BCS national championship game Monday night, introduced Dorsey before the tackle accepted the Outland Trophy as the nation's best interior lineman.

When the player finally came face-to-face with his coach at a reception before the dinner, the pair embraced in a half-hug and joked heartily as they posed for pictures with passing fans.

Ringgold (FROM PAGE ONE)

one of five shots from the floor, pulling down seven rebounds.

Sophomore Brianna Bayly was high for West Allegheny (8-8, 3-2) with 12 points including eight in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Rams host Bentworth tonight.

In Class AAA Section 5, Elizabeth Forward and Belle Vernon Area were winners.

Elizabeth Forward used a strong second half to drop Thomas Jefferson, 62-48, in the battle for second place.

Cassy Sandersonn had 20 points fo the Lady Warriors (12-3, 4-1), who outscored the Lady Jguars, 35-25 in the final 16 minutes.

Jristen Veseleny had a game-high 23 points for TJ (6-10, 3-2).

Belle Vernon Area was a 42-36 winner at Yough for its first section win.

Jocelyn Connolly poured in 20 points for the Lady Leps (4-10, 1-4), who led 14-14 at halftime and 32-24 going into the fourth quarter.

Allison Saccani looked best for Yough (6-10, 0-5) with 15 points.

Both teams resume Monday with BVA going to Franklin Regional and Yough hosting McGuffey.

Charleroi came from behind to pull out a 48-40 victory at Beth-Center in Class AA Section 5 and avenge a 39-37 loss.

The Lady Cougars (7-8, 4-3) trailed 23-19 at halftime and 34-33 going into the fourth quarter before outscoring the Lady Bulldogs, 15-6, in the last eight minutes.

Aly Lee had a game-high 20 points for Charleroi, which moved into a third place tie with the losers.

Megan Sowers topped Beth-Center (10-5, 4-3) with 18 points.

Charleroi hosts Bentworth Monday.

In Class A Section 2, California was an 85-44 loser to front-running Geibel.

Mia White poured in 25 points for the Lady Gators (10-5, 5-0), who coasted after jumping out to a 21-8 first quarter lead.

Morgan Moluski led the Lady Trojans (5-9, 2-3) with 22 points with teammate Alli Greenlief pulling down 14 rebounds.

California resumes Tuesday at home with East Allegheny.

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	25	15	3	53	107	99
Pittsburgh	25	16	2	52	127	116
Philadelphia	22	15	4	48	128	113
N.Y. Islanders	20	17	5	45	100	117
N.Y. Rangers	20	19	5	45	107	115

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	28	10	4	60	151	118
Montreal	22	13	8	52	135	122
Boston	21	18	4	46	110	114
Buffalo	19	18	5	43	123	122
Toronto	16	20	8	40	122	146

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	22	20	4	48	136	145
Atlanta	21	22	2	44	127	149
Florida	20	21	3	43	108	120
Washington	18	20	5	41	119	132
Tampa Bay	16	23	5	37	127	151

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	33	8	4	70	157	96
St. Louis	22	14	5	49	107	102
Nashville	21	19	2	44	121	122
Columbus	19	18	6	44	106	108
Chicago	19	20	4	42	122	129

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	24	15	4	52	112	98
Calgary	22	15	7	51	130	129
Minnesota	24	17	2	50	117	122
Colorado	22	18	3	47	120	121
Edmonton	20	21	4	44	120	133

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	25	17	4	54	134	119
San Jose	24	12	6	54	108	95
Anaheim	23	17	6	52	117	119
Phoenix	22	19	1	45	111	113
Los Angeles	16	27	2	34	128	152

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Thursday's Games

New Jersey 4, Carolina 1
Florida 3, Atlanta 2, SO
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Rangers 2
Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, SO
Montreal 5, Boston 2
Minnesota 6, Detroit 5, SO
Pittsburgh 4, Tampa Bay 1
St. Louis 4, Dallas 2
Edmonton 5, Phoenix 2
San Jose 3, Vancouver 1
Los Angeles 5, Toronto 2

Today's Games

St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Pens summary

Pittsburgh	0	2	2	— 4
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	— 1

First Period—None. Penalties—St. Louis, TB (tripping), :33; Whitney, Pit (tripping), 6:59.

Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, Ranger 8 (Darche, Richards), 4:11. 2, Pittsburgh, Staal 4 (Sykora, Letang), 12:11 (pp). 3, Pittsburgh, Staal 5 (Sykora, Malone), 14:33. Penalties—Ranger, TB (cross-checking), 11:37; Laraque, Pit (tripping), 17:19.

Third Period—4, Pittsburgh, Malone 10 (Sykora, Staal), 17:21. 5, Pittsburgh, Malkin 20 (Gonchar), 19:48 (en). Penalties—Talbot, Pit, double minor (high-sticking), 1:28.

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 8-10-11—29. Tampa Bay 13-9-14—36.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 2; Tampa Bay 0 of 4.

Goalies—Pittsburgh, Conklin 9-0-0 (36 shots-35 saves). Tampa Bay, Ramo 2-5-1 (28-25).

A—20,426 (19,758). T—2:23.

Referees—Mick McGeough, Justin St. Pierre. Linesmen—Thor Nelson, David Brisebois.

Mid-Atlantic Hockey League

	W	L	T	Pts
Indiana	21	1	0	42
Wooster	11	10	2	24
Jamestown	10	13	0	20
Valley Forge	7	13	1	15
Mon Valley	6	12	3	15

Thursday

Wooster 7, Jamestown 4

Saturday

Mon Valley at Valley Forge (8 p.m.)
Jamestown at Wooster

Sunday

Mon Valley at Indiana (4 p.m.)
Valley Forge at Wooster

Sports moves

BASEBALL

MLB—Suspended Kansas City RHP Jacob Rodriguez for 50 games for failing to take a drug test.

TAMPA BAY RAYS—Named Tim Bogar coach; Bill Evers and Joe Nigro professional scouts; Evan Brannon, Jayson Durocher and Brian Hickman area scouts and Scott Thurston Princeton rookie trainer. Promoted Nick Paparesta to major league assistant athletic trainer; Mark Vinson to minor league rehabilitation and athletic training coordinator; Jimmy Southard to trainer for Durham (IL); Joel Smith to trainer for Montgomery (SL) and Kevin Elfering to east coast crosschecker.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with 1B Josh Phelps on a minor league contract.

HOCKEY

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Signed D Brent Sopel to a three-year contract extension.

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Acquired D Magnus Johansson from Chicago for a 2009 seventh-round pick.

MINNESOTA WILD—Announced Bob Naegele's majority stake in the team will be sold to Craig Leipold.

VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Claimed C

Kobe Bryant and the red-hot LA Lakers host Milwaukee, 10:30 p.m., on ESPN.

Kris Beech off waivers from Columbus.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Signed LW Alex Ovechkin to a 13-year contract extension.

Sports dial

Today

Television

7 p.m. - Golf Channel - Sony Open, golf.

8 p.m. - ESPN - Miami at New Orleans, pro basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN2 - Edison Miranda vs David Banks, boxing.

10:30 p.m. - ESPN - Milwaukee at Los Angeles Lakers, pro basketball.

Radio

7:30 p.m. - WGSM (107.1 FM) - Belle Vernon Area at Yough, high school basketball.

College basketball

MEN

EAST

Cent. Connecticut St. 75, St. Francis, Pa. 64
Cornell 91, Alvernia 46
George Washington 49, Saint Louis 20
Quinnipiac 70, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 59
Robert Morris 64, Fairleigh Dickinson 59
St. Francis, NY 73, Sacred Heart 63
Wagner 77, Monmouth, N.J. 62

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 52, Wofford 49
Arkansas 76, Auburn 70
Chattanooga 78, UNC Greensboro 73
Jacksonville 73, Kennesaw St. 56
Louisville 63, West Virginia 54
Mercer 89, North Florida 68
Morehead St. 62, E. Kentucky 53
Murray St. 82, Austin Peay 70
Northwestern St. 95, Texas St. 84
Tennessee St. 55, Samford 46
W. Carolina 73, Furman 65
W. Kentucky 71, La-Monroe 44

MIDWEST

Butler 74, Wis.-Green Bay 65
Cleveland St. 74, Detroit 64
IUPUI 60, N. Dakota St. 46
Oakland, Mich. 74, Centenary 61
Oral Roberts 68, IPFW 56
Tenn.-Martin 69, E. Illinois 63
W. Illinois 75, S. Dakota St. 52
Wis.-Milwaukee 71, Valparaiso 69
Wisconsin 70, Illinois 60
Wright St. 66, Youngstown St. 55

SOUTHWEST

North Texas 74, Arkansas St. 63

FAR WEST

Idaho 85, Louisiana Tech 78
Idaho St. 58, E. Washington 56
N. Arizona 72, Montana 64
New Mexico St. 76, Boise St. 73
Oregon 79, California 70
Pacific 83, Long Beach St. 77
San Jose St. 62, Nevada 60
Stanford 66, Oregon St. 46
UC Irvine 66, UC Santa Barbara 63
UCLA 69, Washington 55
Wash. St. 73, Southern Cal 58
Weber St. 73, Portland St. 68

WOMEN

EAST

George Mason 60, Hofstra 47
Iona 83, Niagara 72
Maryland 88, Boston College 61
Penn St. 72, Northwestern 53
Towson 55, Northeastern 46

SOUTH

Alabama 65, South Carolina 54
Georgia 75, Mississippi 62
Georgia Tech 57, Wake Forest 47
James Madison 93, Georgia St. 49
Kentucky 60, Florida 58
Marshall 61, Memphis 47
Miami 66, Clemson 61
North Carolina 79, Virginia Tech 59
Tennessee 85, Auburn 52
UAB 84, East Carolina 77, OT
Vanderbilt 72, Mississippi St. 50

MIDWEST

Illinois 66, Minnesota 57
Illinois St. 74, N. Iowa 53
Indiana St. 70, Bradley 65
Michigan St. 73, Iowa 65
Missouri St. 76, Evansville 65
Ohio St. 71, Indiana 59
Purdue 56, Michigan 51
S. Illinois 66, Wichita St. 61
Valparaiso 72, Ill.-Chicago 63
Wis.-Milwau. 76, Youngstown St. 66

SOUTHWEST

LSU 76, Arkansas 54
Texas St. 87, Northwestern St. 58

FAR WEST

Cal Poly 55, Cal St.-Fullerton 54
California 61, Oregon 52
Gonzaga 68, Pepperdine 56
Idaho St. 76, E. Washington 69
Long Beach St. 62, Pacific 56
Loyola Marymount 73, Portland 71
Montana 77, N. Arizona 55
Montana St. 86, Sacramento St. 58
Nevada 72, San Jose St. 51
New Mexico St. 79, Boise St. 65
Portland St. 64, Weber St. 49
Southern Cal 62, Wash. St. 58
Stanford 81, Oregon St. 45
UCLA 59, Washington 57

High school boys' basketball standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	Sec. 4 L	Overall W	Overall L
Chartiers Valley	5	0	15	1
Keystone Oaks	4	1	9	8
Ringgold	2	2	5	12
South Park	1	3	4	10
Trinity	1	3	2	10
McGuffey	0	4	3	10

Thursday

Char. Valley 56, Keystone Oaks 48

Today

Ringgold at South Park
Trinity at McGuffey

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Steel Valley	3	1	11	2
Belle Vernon Area	3	1	10	4
West Mifflin	2	2	6	7
Yough	2	2	6	8
Thomas Jefferson	2	2	3	8
Elizabeth Forward	0	4	2	12

Today

Belle Vernon Area at Yough
Thomas Jefferson at Elizabeth Fwd.
Steel Valley at West Mifflin

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Monessen	7	0	12	4
Washington	7	1	13	4
Burgettstown	5	2	11	3
Brownsville	4	3	8	7
C-Houston	3	5	9	8
Charleroi	2	5	6	9
Waynesburg	1	6	3	10
Beth-Center	0	7	3	12

Thursday

Washington 55, Char-Houston 46

Today

Monessen at Beth-Center
Charleroi at Brownsville
Burgettstown at Waynesburg

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	Sec. 2 L	Overall W	Overall L
California	4	0	9	4
Carmichaels	3	1	9	3
Geibel	2	1	3	8
Mapletown	1	2	7	5
Jeff-Morgan	1	3	4	11
West Greene	0	4	1	10

Today

Geibel at California
Jeff-Morgan at Mapletown
West Greene at Carmichaels

	Sec. 3 W	Sec. 3 L	Overall W	Overall L
Serra	6	0	12	1
Bentworth	5	1	10	3
Cornell	3	3	8	6
Clairton	3	3	5	7
Sacred Heart	3	3	4	11
Avella	1	5	4	9
Frazier	0	6	1	12

Today

Avella at Frazier
Bentworth at Serra
Clairton at Sacred Heart

High school girls' basketball standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	Sec. 4 L	Overall W	Overall L
Ringgold	5	0	12	2
Chartiers Valley	4	1	9	6
West Allegheny	3	2	8	8
McGuffey	2	3	7	7
Keystone Oaks	1	4	4	9
Waynesburg	0	5	3	11

Thursday

Ringgold 48, West Allegheny 37
Char Valley 54, Keystone Oaks 34
McGuffey 44, Waynesburg 21

Today

Bethel Park at Ringgold
Waynesburg at West Greene

Saturday

Chartiers Valley at Montour
Keystone Oaks at Ambridge

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Elizabeth Forward	4	1	12	3
Thomas Jefferson	3	2	6	10
Steel Valley	2	3	8	6
Belle Vernon Area	1	4	4	10
Yough	0	5	6	10

Thursday

Belle Vernon Area 42, Yough 36
West Mifflin 58, Steel Valley 35
Eliz. Forward 62, T. Jefferson 48

Saturday

Elizabeth Forward at Peters Twp. (2:30 p.m.)

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	Sec. 5 L	Overall W	Overall L
Washington	7	0	14	0
Brownsville	4	2	12	4
Beth-Center	4	3	10	5
Charleroi	4	3	7	8
Bentworth	2	4	7	8
C-Houston	1	5	5	10
Burgettstown	1	6	3	14

Thursday

Charleroi 48, Beth-Center 40
Washington 65, Burgettstown 21

Today

Washington at Wheeling Park
Brownsville at Chartiers-Houston

Saturday

C-Houston at Brentwood

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	Sec. 2 L	Overall W	Overall L
Geibel	5	0	10	5
Carmichaels	4	1	6	9
Mapletown	3	2	10	4
California	2	3	5	9
West Greene	1	4	1	13
Jeff-Morgan	0	5	1	13

Thursday

Geibel 85, California 44
Mapletown 52, Jeff-Morgan 47
Carmichaels 49, West Greene 46

Today

Jeff-Morgan at Avella

	Sec. 3 W	Sec. 3 L	Overall W	Overall L
Monessen	6	0	15	0
Clairton	4	2	7	5
Serra	3	2	7	4
Avella	2	2	6	6
Trinity Christian	1	5	4	10
Frazier	0	5	0	16

Thursday

Monessen 45, Serra 31
Clairton 89, Trinity Christian 30

Saturday

Monessen at Trinity Christian (2:30 p.m.)
Avella at Serra (2:30 p.m.)

Basketball lineups

Monessen - 45

Chukwuedo, 5-4-14; Mornak, 2-3-7; Minardi, 1-4-6; Stepoli, 2-4-8; Popovich, 1-1-3; Diggs, 2-1-5; Beveridge, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 14, F - 17 (27), T - 45.

Serra Catholic - 31

Gwosden, 2-0-4; Stewart, 2-2-7; T. Gould, 1-1-3; McGann, 2-2-6; Penn, 2-2-6; A. Gould, 2-1-5; Minkus, 0-0-0; Bartko, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 11, F - 8 (13), T - 31.

Score by quarters:

Serra	3	10	14	4	-	31
Monessen	15	14	6	10	-	45

Three-pointers: Serra - Stewart.

Ringgold - 48

Leach, 4-1-9; Resanovich, 4-0-9; Selby, 6-2-14; Schartner, 1-4-6; Affinito, 1-4-6; Pantojas, 2-0-4; Melzer, 0-0-0; Ladley, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 18, F - 11 (15), T - 48.

West Allegheny - 37

Bayly, 5-0-12; Battocchi, 3-1-7; Rosso, 3-0-6; Petrella, 2-2-6; Stasko, 3-0-6. Totals: FG - 16, F - 3 (3), T - 37.

Score by quarters:

Ringgold	8	10	12	18	-	48
West Allegheny	10	10	6	11	-	37

Three-pointers: Ringgold - Resanovich. West Allegheny - Bayly 2.

Charleroi - 48

Neff, 3-0-6; Lee, 7-3-20; Sidary, 1-0-2; Shannon, 1-2-4; Samoda, 2-0-4; Thorne, 2-0-5; Tarpley, 2-1-7. Totals: FG - 18, F - 6 (13), T - 48.

Beth-Center - 40

Sowers, 5-4-16; Whitlow, 2-0-4; Devecka, 3-1-7; Carroll, 3-0-6; Balog, 2-0-4; Toth, 1-1-3. Totals: FG - 16, F - 6 (12), T - 40.

Score by quarters:

Charleroi	9	10	14	15	-	48
Beth-Center	13	10	11	6	-	40

Three-pointers: Charleroi - Lee 3, Tarpley 2, Thorne. Beth-Center - Sowers 2.

Geibel - 85

White, 10-4-25; Erdely 6-0-12; Speeney, 4-0-8; Dowden, 4-2-10; Beck, 2-0-4; Berish, 2-0-4; Hillen, 3-0-6; Ardabell, 5-0-10; Ciaroci, 2-0-4. Totals: FG - 39, F - 6 (13), T - 85.

California - 44

Zajicek, 0-8-8; Greenlief, 4-0-8; Kudlik, 1-0-2; Moluski, 8-2-22; Wagner, 2-0-4; Doman, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 15, F - 10 (26), T - 44.

Score by quarters:

Geibel	21	24	30	10	-	85
California	8	14	10	12	-	44

Three-pointers: California - Moluski 4. Geibel - White.

High school basketball scores

BOYS

Chartiers Valley 56, Keystone Oaks 48
Washington 55, Chartiers-Houston 46

GIRLS

Ambridge 61, Ellwood City 42
Apollo-Ridge 64, Freeport 29
Avonworth 60, Leechburg 7
Baldwin 54, Upper St. Clair 49
Beaver Falls 69, Riverside 59
Belle Vernon 42, Yough 36
Bethel Park 42, Montour 23
Blackhawk 52, Moon 33
Butler 56, Plum 42
Canon-McMillan 66, Trinity 63
Carmichaels 49, West Greene 46
Charleroi 48, Beth-Center 40
Chartiers Valley 54, Keystone Oaks 34
Clairton 88, Trinity Christian 30
Deer Lakes 45, Springdale 34
Derry Area 67, Greensburg Salem 56
Eliz. Forward 62, Thomas Jefferson 48
Ford City 56, Jeannette 52
Fort Cherry 49, Brentwood 36
Fox Chapel 46, McKeesport 33
Freedom 59, South Side Beaver 46
Gateway 46, Penn Hills 25
Greensburg CC 69, East Allegheny 43
Hampton 71, Valley 36
Hopewell 49, Center 32
Indiana 67, Highlands 37
Kiski Area 31, Hempfield 26
Kittanning 56, Knoch 40
Latrobe 62, Albert Gallatin 39
Laurel Highlands 59, Franklin Regional 51
Mars 45, Burrell 31
McGuffey 44, Waynesburg Central 21
Mohawk 49, Union 37
Monessen 45, Serra Catholic 31
Mount Lebanon 46, Peters Township 40
Mount Pleasant 59, Southmoreland 35
New Brighton 53, Laurel 46
North Catholic 72, St. Joseph 37
Norwin 72, Uniontown 48
Oakland Catholic 56, Woodland Hills 54
OLSH 53, Quaker Valley 41
Penn Trafford 49, Connellsville 37
Quigley 72, Cornell 45
Ringgold 48, West Allegheny 37
Seneca Valley 41, Pine-Richland 36
Seton-LaSalle 51, South Park 50
Sewickley Academy 62, W. Beaver 49
Shady Side Academy 60, Northgate 46
South Fayette 31, Carlynton 15
Sto-Rox 67, Aliquippa 21
Washington 65, Burgettstown 21
Wilkinsburg 59, Riverview 55

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	4	.879	—
New Jersey	18	17	.514	12
Toronto	18	17	.514	12
Philadelphia	14	22	.389	16 1/2
New York	9	25	.265	20 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	23	14	.622	—
Washington	17	16	.515	4
Atlanta	16	16	.500	4 1/2
Charlotte	13	21	.382	8 1/2
Miami	8	28	.222	14 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	27	9	.750	—
Cleveland	18	18	.500	9
Indiana	16	21	.432	11 1/2
Milwaukee	15	20	.429	11 1/2
Chicago	13	20	.394	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	24	11	.686	
San Antonio	23	11	.676	1/2
New Orleans	23	12	.657	1
Houston	19	17	.528	5 1/2
Memphis	10	25	.286	14

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	22	13	.629	—
Denver	21	13	.618	1/2
Utah	20	17	.541	3
Seattle	9	26	.257	13
Minnesota	5	29	.147	16 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	25	11	.694	--
L.A. Lakers	23	11	.676	1
Golden State	20	16	.556	5
Sacramento	14	20	.412	10
L.A. Clippers	10	22	.313	13

Thursday's Games

Detroit 90, San Antonio 80
Sacramento 116, Memphis 113
Utah 108, Phoenix 86

Today's Games

Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Boston at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Memphis at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Latest Line

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Divisional Playoffs		
Saturday, Jan 12		
GREEN BAY	8 (42)	Seattle
N. ENGLAND	13 12(48)	Jacksonville
Sunday, Jan 13		
INDIANAPOLIS	9 (45)	San Diego
DALLAS	7 1/2 (47)	NY Giants

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
PHILADELPHIA	3	Chicago
CLEVELAND	8	Charlotte
ATLANTA	3	Washington
Toronto	4	NEW YORK
NEW ORLEANS	11	Miami
DENVER	5	Orlando
LA LAKERS	12	Milwaukee
GLDN STATE	9	Memphis
Dallas	8	SEATTLE

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Area bowling

Charleroi Laanes
New Eagle League
Standings

Charleroi Lanes, 19-9; A.T. Koury Roofing and Ponce's Place, 18-11; Maroadi Transfer and Storage, 18-12; Yocolano Distributing and Monongahela Fire Department, 17-12; Hey Andy and Hoot Owls, 13-16; Eck's Restaurant & Lounge, 8-20; Bill Hermann's Landcaping, 8-21.

High scores

David Speers, 220-602; Kenny Louttit, 215-520; Rich Smar, 205-506; Rick Bright, 198-481; Jerry Trombley, 196-499; Jim Gavaghan, 195-527; Chuck Patterson, 193-555; George Andrako, 193-520; Allan Waterhouse, 189-499; Dave Marraccini, 188-547.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Monessen High girls' gymnastics coach Elaine Chabalka landed a $100 raise to $1,600.

Kevin Tony scored 21 points in Bentworth's 66-48 win over Avella.

California State College had to forfeit wins over Salem, Edinboro and Waynesburg in which ineligible sophomore Tom Vargo played.

20 Years Ago

Julianne Rue's basket with two seconds left gave Ringgold its first win ever over West Mifflin, 48-46.

Tammy Rodriguez, Colleen Cratty and TYrina Sellrs all had 10 points in Belle Vernon Area's 47-27 win over Tri-Valley.

Mon Valley Catholic clobbered California, 94-33, behind Dawn Ghilani's 24 points.

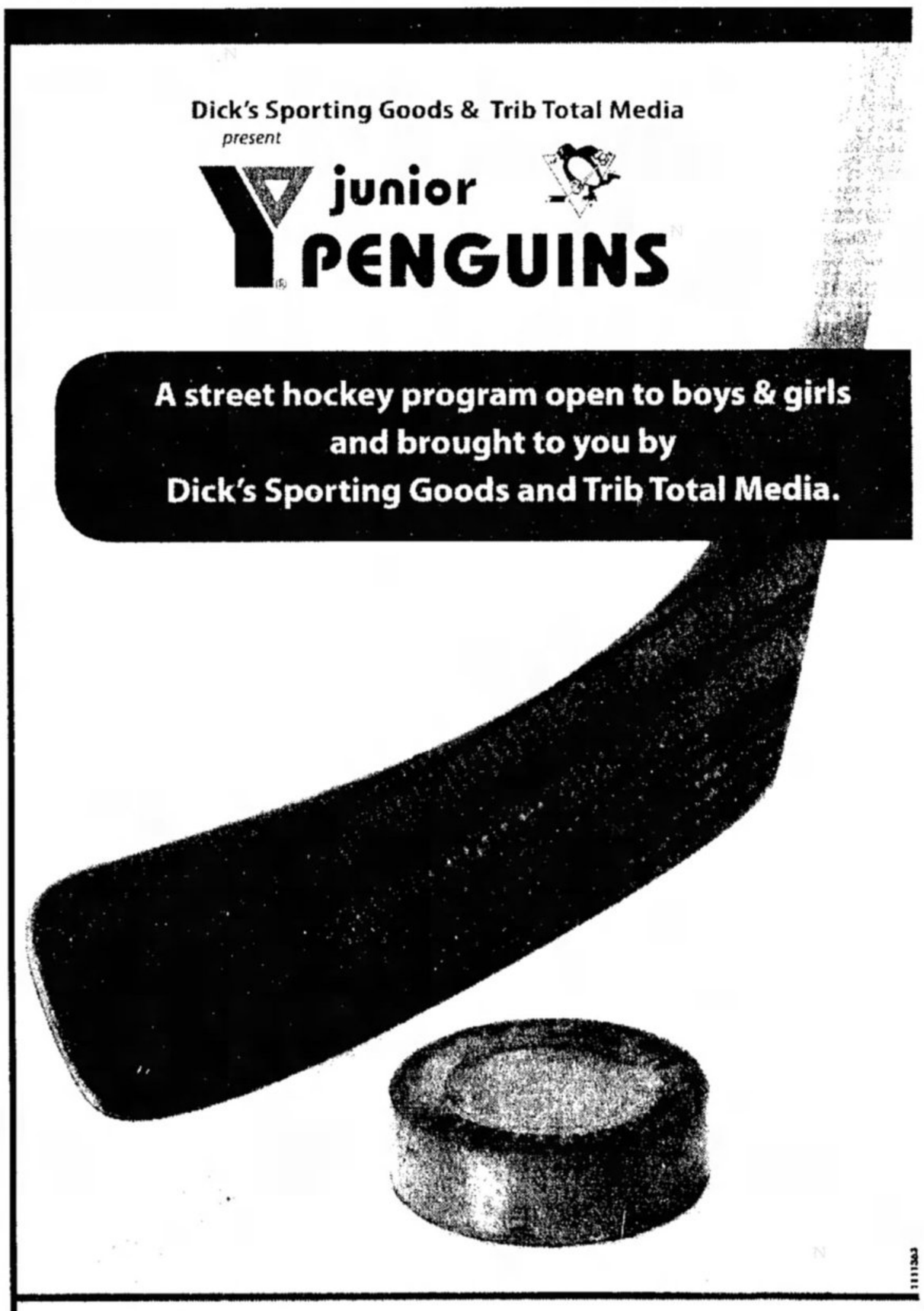
Traci Stasicha had 20 points in Charleroi's 57-37 loss to Peters Township.

Ereka Woods had 13 points and blocked 10 shots in Monessen's 46-32 defeat at Beth-Center.

10 Years Ago

Monessen native and boxer Michael Moorer donatd several thousand dollars worth of new weightlifting equipment to the Monessen School District.

Dick's Sporting Goods & Trib Total Media
present
junior PENGUINS



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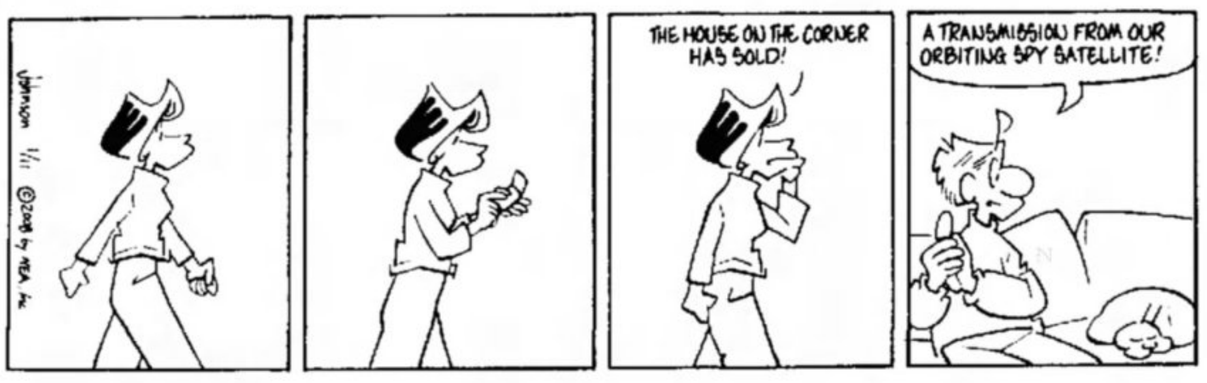

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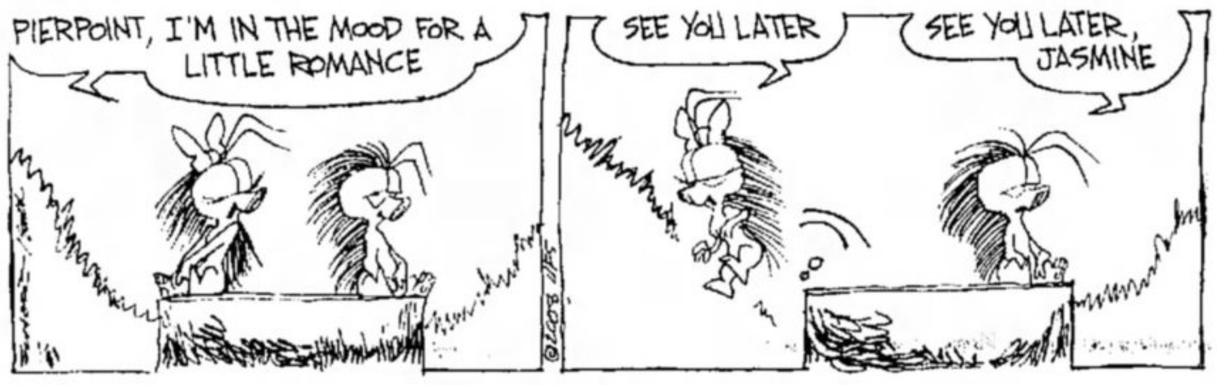
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves

SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

***Classic* PEANUTS®** by Charles M. Schulz

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne

BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

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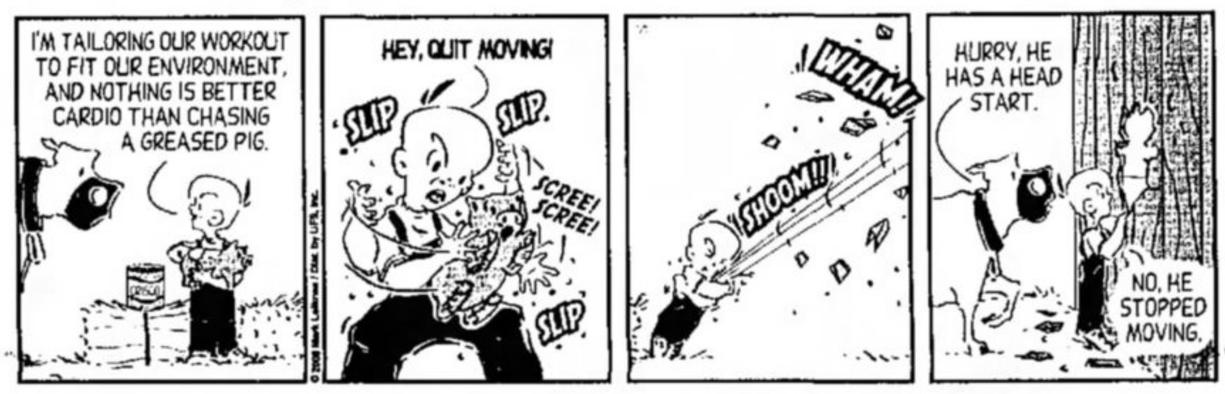


HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"When I said I wanted heavy-duty shocks, I didn't mean when I read the bill."

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT CrossWordPuzzle

ACROSS

1 Figurehead's place
4 Clink or cooler
8 Pair
11 Motor sound
12 Wrist bone
13 Once possessed
14 Dashiell's peer
15 What banks do
16 Conclude
17 Mind reader
19 Pub throws
21 Type of parrot
22 Vein of ore
23 Concentrated
26 Drive-in employee
28 Before, to bards
29 Cutie pie
31 Mach 2 fliers, once
33 Therefore
35 November word
37 Sense organ
38 Scheduled
40 Raw-fish delicacy
42 Harrow rival
43 Big tub
44 Pigeonhole
46 Hollowing-out tools
50 Again and again
51 Elvis, to some
53 Q.E.D. part
54 Function
55 Long river
56 Wander
57 Doze off
58 Guys' dates
59 Compass dir.

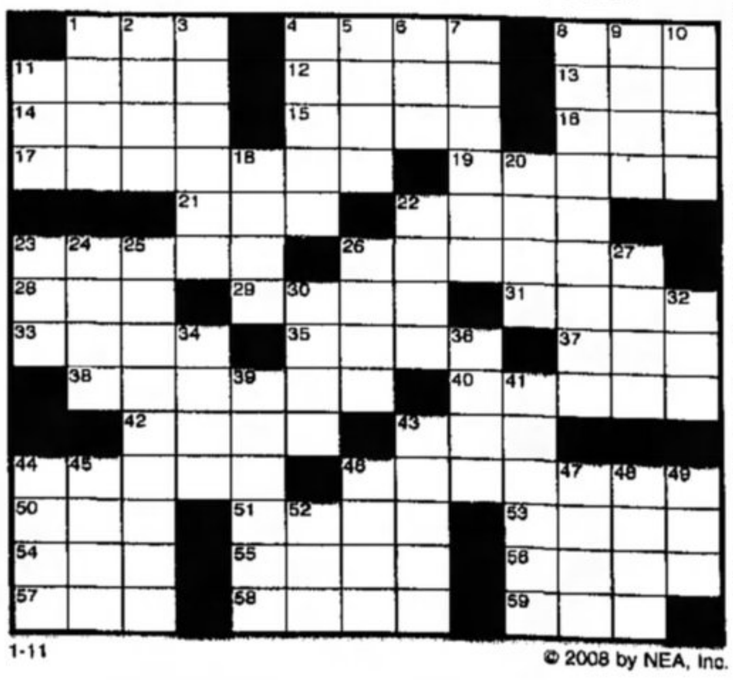
DOWN

1 Clingy seedpods
2 Paris hub
3 Totals
4 Child of Roberts
5 Knighted Guinness
6 Lodging
7 Painter's tool
8 Lunchbox items
9 Desire
10 Lotto info
11 Get-up-and-go
18 Respect
20 Long sighs
22 Road crew's supply
23 "Gidget" actress
24 Miscalculates
25 Shirked
26 Clump of dirt
27 Egyptian god
30 Pizzeria need
32 Delhi honorific
34 Pledge
36 Hairy twin
39 Angling a nail
41 Says out loud
43 Meadow rodents
44 Verb preceder
45 In that case (2 wds.)
46 Film purchase
47 Aphrodite's child
48 Scream and shout
49 Fem. saint
52 Day, to Jose

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	A	W	N	S				G	O	A	D	
E	M	A	I	L	S		C	O	U	G	A	R
G	A	D	G	E	T		A	U	R	O	R	A
			H	A	Y	I	N	G		G	E	M
	L	U	T	Z		T	E	E	M			
H	U	N		E	S	C		S	U	L	K	
A	R	C			K	H	Z		M	E	A	T
M	E	L	D		I	I	I			T	R	I
	S	E	A	M		E	G	G		I	M	P
			H	O	R	S		R	A	N	A	
E	L	L		D	E	T	A	I	L			
R	O	O	F	E	D		G	E	T	U	P	S
A	P	O	L	L	O		A	V	E	R	S	E
	E	M	U	S				E	R	N	I	E

GET MORE in the new "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" series from Quill Driver. Call 800-605-7176.



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FEATURES

PROJECT OF THE WEEK

Chest instant classic

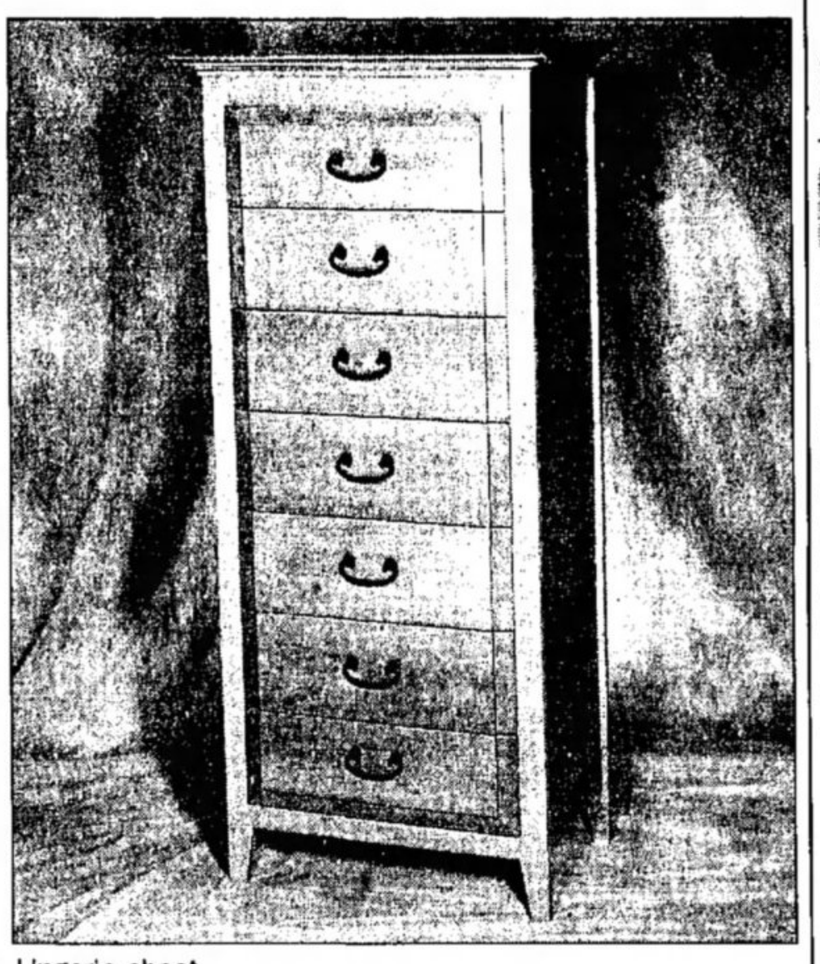
A natural for any decor, this elegant lingerie chest project will become an heirloom for generations to come.

Its combination of clean lines and a sturdy and simple design make it an instant classic.

Built from 15 board feet of maple and three sheets of matching veneer plywood (as pictured; other species will also work), the chest features a generous top – just right for fresh flowers, photographs or a jewelry box – over seven large drawers.

Designed to hold lingerie, fine knits and other delicates, the drawers travel on precision slides to ensure smooth, quiet operation.

Despite its sophisticated appearance, the project is easy enough for most woodworkers. Step-by-step instructions and detailed diagrams simplify building the cabinet and aligning the drawers.



Lingerie chest

Although careful measuring and cutting are required, construction is simple: cut out the pieces, assemble everything with glue and nails, add finish and install the hardware.

The completed lingerie chest measures about 27 inches wide by 17 inches deep by 59 inches tall.

The Lingerie Chest plan, No. 874, is $9.95 and includes complete step-by-step directions with photos, isometric drawings, construction diagrams, a shopping list and cutting layout and a toll-free help line for project questions.

A package of jewelry and lingerie furniture plans, No. C144, is $24.95 and includes this plan plus plans for a jewelry and lingerie chest and a jewelry box.

A free catalog picturing dozens of do-it-yourself projects is also available. Please include $4 for postage and handling and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o *The Valley Independent,* 3800 Oceanic Drive, Suite 107, Oceanside, CA 92056.

To order by credit card, call 1 (800) 828-2453.

Visit U-Bild on the Web at u-bild.com.

CALENDAR WATCH

Saturday

■Long Branch Community Grange meeting, 1 p.m.

■Dance featuring "Best of Times," Center in the Woods, California, 6 to 10 p.m.

■Increasing College/Community Monies tea party, Your Mamma's House, Monessen, 1 to 3 p.m.

■Doughnut sale, Transfiguration Church, Monongahela, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Saturday Night Live scheduled

Saturday Night Live will be staged 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Mon Valley YMCA, Carroll Township. Roller Roo from the Valley Skating Center will present gifts. The event will include swimming, basketball, gym games, food and access to the youth and teen center. For information, call Adoree DeLuca-Johnson at (724) 483-8077.

Caregivers Support Group plans meeting

The Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging Caregivers Support Group will meet 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the agency on room, 200 S. Main St., Greensburg. To register, call Toni McGovern at (724) 830-4489.

Super Bowl hoagie sale set

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, St. Nicholas Drive, Donora, will conduct an advance order-only Super Bowl hoagie sale Feb. 2. To order, call (724) 379-6478 or (724) 483-7614 by Jan. 27. Pickups will be 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 3.

Gastric Bypass support group schedules meeting

The New Beginnings Gastric Bypass Surgery Support Group meets 7 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month at the Bentleyville Best Western off Interstate 70. The group is open to pre-ops, post-ops and family members. Young children are prohibited from attending. For information, call Theresa Quail at (724) 632-5668.

USS Maddox reunion set

The USS Maddox Destroyer reunion (DD-168, DD-622, and DD731) will take place Sept. 3-7 in Oklahoma City, Okla. For information, contact Cliff Gillespie at 2118 Hines Road, Jennings, LA 70546, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

Monessen Democratic Committee meeting set

The Monessen Democratic Committee will meet 7 p.m. Sunday at the Italian Club.

Monessen VFW Post 1190 honored first responders of Monessen for 2007. The selections were based on merit. Each received a recognition plaque, and will move on to the District 27 competition. From left are Robert Vetter, Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services paramedic; Capt. Don Novak, Monessen Volunteer Fire Department No. 2; Post 1190 Commander Doug Campbell; Capt. Joe Altamare, Monessen Volunteer Fire Department No. 1; and James Quattro, Monessen police officer.

MAKING THE GRADE

Christner studies in U.S. capital

Christner

Rostraver Middle School sixth-grader Christopher Christner participated in the People to People World Leadership Forum.

He was in Washington, D.C., Sept. 10-16 to earn high school credit through the study of leadership.

Teacher Henrietta Rebish nominated him based on scholarship, civic involvement and leadership potential. He is the son of Chris and Desiree Christner, of Rostraver Township.

Monessen Lions honor students

Lee

Stark

The Monessen Lions Club named Caitlyn Lee as its November student of the month and Adam Stark as its December student of the month.

She serves as Spanish Club president and is active with Ski Club.

She has received the Attitude, Attendance and Achievement Award, and the Susan B. Anthony Humanitarian Award.

The daughter of James and Rebecca Lee, she plans to study pre-medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stark is active with varsity soccer, SAAA Club and National Honor Society. He has served as SADD Club secretary and soccer team captain.

He has received the Academic Excellence Award and Kodak Student of the Year Award. He is a Rotary Student of the Month.

The son of Carol Stark, he plans to study business at the University of Tampa.

Puskavich makes Bloomsburg list

Natasha C. Puskavich was named to the fall dean's list at Bloomsburg University.

The daughter of Avril and David Puskavich, of Belle Vernon, she is a medical imaging major.

She is the granddaughter of Louise Puskavich, of Scenery Hill, and George and Audrey Sharp, of Bethel Park.

Donora Rotary honors students

Irey

Ringeling

Massafra

Carroll

The Donora Rotary Club has recognized six students of the month, all of whom are Ringgold High School seniors.

Christopher Carroll has appeared in numerous theatrical productions at the school.

He attended the Governor's School for Global Entrepreneurship and represented the Donora Rotary at the World Affairs Institute in Pittsburgh.

The son of Christopher and Kimberly Carroll, of Monongahela, he plans to study mechanical engineering at Grove City College.

Victoria Irey is active in colorguard, debate, Razzmatazz, concert choir, women's choir, Spanish Club and the gifted program. She represented Donora Rotary at the World Affairs Institute in Pittsburgh.

The daughter of Robert and Diana Irey, of Monongahela, she plans to study history at Grove City College.

Drew Ringeling serves as Character Education treasurer.

He is active with math league, National Honor Society. An honors student, he is a student of the year finalist and is in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

The son of Maureen Ringeling, of Monongahela, he plans to attend college.

Kaylyn Massafra is active with Interact Club, Character Education Club, Community Service Club, SADD, student government, student activities, TEAMS, Spanish Club, peer jury and GEAR.

She is a student ambassador and tutors Donora Elementary students. She attended the Governor's School.

The daughter of Anthony and Karen Massafra, of Donora, she plans to study special education at St. Francis University.

Travis Tokach is active with Interact club, Spanish Club, math league, TEAMS, SADD, Character Education Club, National Honor Society and tennis. He works at McDonald's and is an altar server.

The son of Ramona and Robert Tokach, of Donora, he plans to attend college.

Stephanie Syrko is active with Spanish Club, Interact Club and Character Education Club.

The daughter of Dave and Kim Syrko, of Donora, she plans to study occupational therapy at Duquesne University.

Clark makes PSU dean's list

Andrea Clark was named to the fall dean's list at Penn State, University Park Campus.

A chemical engineering major, she is the daughter of Donna and Dan Clark, of Donora.

Dennis Quaid, wife rip Cedars-Sinai hospital

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – Dennis Quaid and his wife denounced the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center over a "lack of candor" about medical errors they believe caused their newborn twins to receive overdoses of a blood thinner.

The couple indicated they were particularly upset to learn from a state investigation that their babies were given dosages of heparin that were 2,000 times stronger than what was prescribed.

The report's findings released Wednesday by the California Department of Public Health conflict with the hospital's initial report that the children each received one vial containing 10,000 units per milliliter of heparin instead of the common dosage of 10 units per milliliter. The report found the children actually received two of the vials.

"We find it outrageous and totally unacceptable that we are learning for the first time... exactly what transpired," the actor and his wife, Kimberly, said in a statement to the Los Angeles Times.

"The hospital's lack of candor has left us with the uneasy feeling that we may never know the whole story," the statement said.

The hospital has previously issued an apology to the patients' families and said it has taken steps to provide more training to staff and review all policies and procedures involving high-risk medication.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: O equals F

"S M Y W R K R W O A X H Y L D M E K D Y G O,
M Y I D I R G G F C A Y D D A K Y L M E W H
Y Z Y X F P A C F Y G D Y X Y K Y K P Y X D."
- U R K Y D B A B A

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "Either be hot or cold. If you are lukewarm, the Lord will spew you forth from His mouth." - Jerry Lee Lewis

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The American Croatian Club
4th St. & Castner Avenue • Donora, PA
724-379-4871
EAT IN or TAKE OUT
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Menu for Saturday, January 12, 2008
Veal-Stuffed Banana Peppers
Spaghetti & Meatballs
Tripe
Eggplant Parmesan
Crabcakes
Grilled Chicken Salad

www.valleyindependent.com

CLUBHOUSE GRILLE
at Cedarbrook Golf Course
Italian Night
$10.95
FRIDAYS in January, February & March
4p.m. - 8p.m. • CHOICE OF 4 ITALIAN MEALS
ALL SERVED W/SOUP, SALAD & BREADSTICKS
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EXT. 3, THEN EXT. 4

MONESSEN HILLTOP FIREMAN'S
Friday, January 11th
DJ Steve
10 P.M. - CLOSE
Saturday, January 12th
DJ STAN THE MAN
10 P.M. - CLOSE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
BAR BINGO
6 P.M. - 10 P.M.
MEMBERS & THEIR GUEST WELCOME

Hey Andy! SPORTS BAR -and- RESTAURANT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12TH
THE KLICK
1221 W. MAIN MONONGAHELA 724-258-4755

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Meal Includes: Salad, Coffee, Juice, Iced Tea, Spaghetti, Meatball(s), and Dessert (1)
ALL YOU CAN EAT $6.50
(Includes 2 Meatballs)
Large $5.50 — Small $4.50 Children 5 & Under FREE (Special Plate)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH
NOON TIL 6PM
MONONGAHELA #455 ELKS
Corner of Union & Jackson
Take Outs 724-258-3370
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Email us at: moncity@verizon.net

Valley INDEPENDENT

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLASSIFIED

EASTGATE 19, MONESSEN, PA 15062
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM

VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 724.684.5200 FAX: 724.684.2602

RECRUITMENT
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

MERCHANDISE
4 LINES • 4 DAYS
$14.30 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

GARAGE SALES
5 LINES • 3 DAYS
$18.65
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

AUTOMOTIVE
4 LINES • 26 DAYS
$34.78 PRE-PAY PRIVATE PARTY ONLY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

RUN UNTIL IT SELLS!
4 LINES
PRIVATE PARTY MERCHANDISE ONLY. NO BUSINESSES, AUTOS, BOATS, RV'S, REAL ESTATE, MOBILE HOMES OR APARTMENTS.
ASKING PRICE OF ITEM IS REDUCED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY 5%
$19.45 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

PRE-PAY WITH VISA DISCOVER

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Tribune-Review Publishing Company reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. MISPRINTS: Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. The Tribune-Review Publishing Company will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. CONFIDENTIALITY: Confidential box numbers – we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who wish to protect their identity can do so as follows. Place your reply in an envelope addressed to the File Box at the Valley Independent Classified Department, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicaps, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

1000/GENERAL

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The Tribune-Review Publishing Company has open positions for Part-time Circulation Assistants.

Currently an exciting opportunity exists for the right individual. A chance to earn, learn and advance.

- Steady Part-time approx. 30 hrs./wk.
- Early morning hours
- Delivery & customer service skills necessary
- Work Independently
- Competitive wage & auto allowance

If interested call Ken Paranczek at **724-850-2826**

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1000/GENERAL

COUNSELOR 2 SAFE HARBOR

Connect, Inc. has immediate opening for a full-time and 5 part-time Substance Abuse and Mental Health Counselors in the Greensburg area. Qualified applicants must have a Master's degree in counseling or related field. Licensed preferred. Act 33/34 clearance required. Send resume and cover letter to P.O. Box [illegible], Charleroi, PA 15022. Attention: Department [illegible]. For additional information, search our home page address at www.[illegible].org. Our email address is postmaster@[illegible].org

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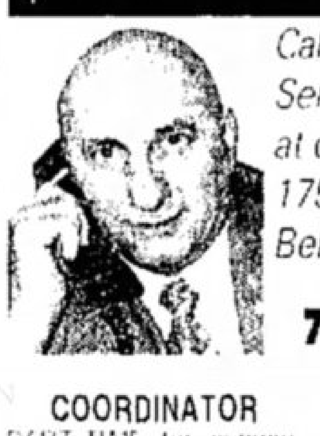
1000/GENERAL

Career Opportunities



Call Tom Simon or join us at our Career Seminar ***Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008 at 11am*** *at our Mid Mon Valley Office located at 1751 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, PA.*

724-929-9699

Howard Hanna Simon Real Estate Services

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

COORDINATOR

PART TIME for community development team in Charleroi. Looking for an energetic, creative, organized person to plan events, coordinate meetings, and work with local businesses and volunteers. Growth opportunities. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Please send resume and cover letter to: [illegible].org Subject: Coordinator. No phone calls please. EOE [illegible]

C. Harper AUTOPLEX

BODY SHOP PERSONNEL NEEDED

Licensed Estimator, Painter, Light Duty Bodyman

Due to increase in business we are looking to add to our staff within the C. Harper collision center. All positions are full time with benefits, including medical coverage, and 401K plan.

We are looking for an experienced license estimator, an auto body painter, as well as a light duty bodyman, to join our collision center. If you have the experience, in either of these positions we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. Applicants can apply in person or forward resume. All interviews are confidential.

LORI BODNAR
Personnel Director
C. Harper Auto Group
Fax: 724-929-7240

1040/MEDICAL

Bentleyville Openings

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR
Masters Level position to work with residents and supervise staff. Mental Health experience required. MSW preferred. Full Benefits.

MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS
Bachelor level worker to assist residents with activities of daily living. 40 hr pwk. Full Benefits.

MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN/Part Time
Part-time workers to cover schedule openings. Same duties and requirements as above.

SOCIAL SERVICE AIDE 1
Aides needed to assist consumers with personal activities at Enhanced Personal Care Home.

Resumes with references and a letter of interest should be sent to:

Mental Health Association
15 South College Street
Washington, PA 15301

FAX: 724-225-4770
Email: mhawashco@verizon.net

E.O.E.

REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR

Long-term care facility accepting applications for FT/PT all shifts.
Competitive starting wage, insurance benefits, 401K & vacation/holiday package.
Convenient location (off Routes 43 & 88).
For more information call 724-310-1111.
Send resume to:
MON VALLEY CARE CENTER
200 STOOPS DRIVE
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063
OR VISIT US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS

EOE

2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS for the Construction of the Panhandle Trail, Phase II in Smith Township, Burgettstown and Midway Boroughs, Washington County, Pennsylvania, will be received at the Office of the County Controller, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 403, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, until 11:00 A.M. prevailing time, January 30, 2008 and immediately thereafter will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Purchasing Office, Suite 402, Courthouse Square Office Building, 100 West Beau Street, Washington, PA 15301. Late bids will not be accepted.

The work of this project consists of the construction of 2.4 miles of a gravel surfaced hiking and biking trail including but not limited to the following:

- Maintenance and protection of traffic
- Erosion and sediment pollution control measures
- Construction of trail access parking lot
- Construction of trail surface including grading and drainage structures
- Signing and pavement markings
- Seeding and mulching of all disturbed areas not receiving other surface treatments
- Drainage improvements
- Site restoration work
- Bituminous overlay of existing parking lot and construction of bituminous walk

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid meeting will be held with the Washington County Planning Commission personnel and all prospective bidders and other interested parties to discuss the project. The meeting will be held on January 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Washington County Planning Commission, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 701, Washington, PA.

Copies of the Contract Documents and Drawings may be reviewed at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301. Contract Documents and Drawings may be purchased for a non-refundable fee of $150.00 made payable to the Washington County Commissioners. Bid packages will be mailed for an additional non-refundable fee of $20.00. Bidders may fax their written request to the Washington County Purchasing Office at 724-250-6555.

Bid Security - Proposal must be accompanied by certified check, cashier's check, bank good faith check, other irrevocable letter of credit or bid bond in the amount of 10% of the total amount of bid and made payable to the order of the Washington County Commissioners. Only the Bid Securities listed above will be accepted.

Prequalification of Bidders of bidders, as specified in Section 102.01 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Specification Publication No. 408/2007-1, effective October 1, 2007 is required on this project.

Bonds - The bidder awarded this contract will be required to furnish Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds in the amount of 100% of the bid amount.

Insurance - The bidder awarded this contract will be required to furnish proof of Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Automobile Liability Insurance and General Liability Insurance and other insurance in the amounts stipulated in the Contract Documents.

Wage Rates - Davis-Bacon Federal Wage Rates apply to this project.

Time for Completion - The work of this Project will be completed 100 calendar days after the date of the Notice to Proceed.

The Washington County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bid proposals.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LARRY MAGGI & J. BRACKEN BURNS, SR., CO-CHAIRMEN
DIANA L. IREY

ATTEST:

MARY HELICKE
CHIEF CLERK
1/4,11

1040/MEDICAL

DENTAL ASSISTANT

Mon Valley area. Experience necessary. PA X-ray certification required. Competitive salary, vacation. Send resume to Box 876 c/o Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

Highlands Hospital

Manager Respiratory Therapy

Respiratory care practitioner with experience in clinical & administrative functions. Will manage cardio-pulmonary department, oversee operation of newly opened Sleep Lab, and provide respiratory therapy services to both inpatients and outpatients.

Assistant Director Rehab

Licensed PT to assist Director with coordination of rehab services (including speech and OT) and on-site fitness center. Will also provide clinical PT services to both inpatients and outpatients.

Diabetes Program Support

(Part-time) RN or RD with experience in diabetes education.

Medical Office Assistant

(Part-time) For behavioral health outpatient practice. Must have behavioral health experience, billing knowledge preferred.

Mental Health RN, Social Worker, COTA/Activities Therapist

For inpatient care setting. Related experience or a sincere interest in developing mental health nursing skills required.

Nurse Practitioner

CRNP with mental health and/or research experience. Must be independent worker and detail oriented.

RNs-ICU, ER, OR, Med-Surg

Related experience preferred.

Respiratory Care Practitioner

Registered or certified respiratory care practitioner.

Social Worker

(Part-time) Medical/surgical Social Worker. BSW or MSW.

Aerobics Instructor

Certified aerobics instructor. Will teach 4th through 12th grade students during school hours, hours and schedule will vary.

Full-time and part-time positions include full benefit package. Casual and "Weekender" positions also available. Free on-site parking. On-site fitness center! Easy location just off Rt. 119S between Greensburg and Uniontown. Send resume or call for application.

Human Resources Dept.
Highlands Hospital
401 E. Murphy Ave.
Connellsville, PA 15425
724-626-2314 EOE

4100/PERSONALS

ASTRO GRAPH

Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

CAPRICORN December 22 through January 19

SATURDAY, JAN. 12, 2008

An important undertaking may head off in a direction you don't anticipate in the year ahead, but instead of getting upset, let events have their own way. Everything will work out far better for you than they would if done your way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- *The control of something* important may be taken out of your hands and given to another. It will cause much more problems for you if you get haughty about it. Let it sort itself out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Unexpected pressure from your peers may cause you to act *in a manner that does not serve* your best interests. Instead of being indignant or acting dictatorial, find a way to hold firm without losing your dignity.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- If those with whom you share your time feel you are being far too self-serving, they won't hesitate to pressure you to cool it. Make sure your behavior is justified before you start rebelling or pointing fingers.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Someone who is quite clever about getting you to reveal *things that are confidential will* be up to his/her old tricks, so be on guard and don't talk about anything that would let the cat out of the bag.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Rewards for hard work will be coming your way. Someone who was present but didn't make any contribution may *have his/her hand out to grab a* share of what you accomplished. Don't be a patsy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- You have a strong need to exercise your independence and will resent being bossed around by those who are interfere with your plans. You won't hesitate to give them their marching orders.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Look *for all those unfinished* tasks or assignments you've been sweeping under the rug to rear their ugly heads when something more important needs done. Sadly, you'll have to incorporate them into your plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You'll be judged more for your sportsmanship than how well *you play the game*, so be a good sport. Whether you win or lose, do so with as much grace as you can muster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- An engagement you have may be far more important to you than it is to your mate or someone with whom you share your time. Be understanding if this person *doesn't want to participate.*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You generally have little problem getting along with almost anybody, but when a know-it-all enters the picture, it may be more than you can tolerate. Unfortunately, characters of this ilk will exceed your tolerance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Where you are apt to experience a bit more stress at this time is in areas that affect your material interaction with others. A misunderstanding might arise that could easily be blown out of proportion and cause a brouhaha.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Those who are normally on your side and usually don't offer any kind of opposing position might be uncooperative. Should some unexpected resistance occur, analyze your behavior or action to figure out the reason.

1000/GENERAL

DOWN ROUTE DRIVER

Part-time position approximately 25 hrs./week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

DRAFTSPERSON

Needed for local manufacturing plant. Full-time position. Qualifications must include knowledge of AutoCad Micro Station a plus. Benefits available after 3 months. *Drug test* required. Send resume to P.O. Box 461, Donora, PA 15033.

EXPERIENCED AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN or PAINTER

Full-time
Call 724-239-4500

HAIRSTYLIST & Manicurist wanted for Mon Valley salon. *Call 724-797-4167*

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1000/GENERAL

LABORER NEEDED. Must have own transportation. Call after 6pm & leave message at 724-239-2900

MH/MR Support Staff

Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, is currently seeking part-time and full-time support staff to work *in our community* homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton, and Elizabeth areas. No experience is necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr after 6 *months*. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm 412-825-9141.

FOSTER FAMILIES wanted who will open their hearts and homes to foster children of all ages. Reimbursement, support and training provided. Call 1-800-747-3807.

LIKE A CHALLENGE? Join Our Team! Immediate opening for Special Education Teacher in a day treatment program. New, retired, experienced welcome. *Full or part-time, salary/benefit* options available. Fax resume to Karry at Agape, Inc. 724-684-5802

MOLLY MAID

Seeking dependable people for light house keeping Mon.-Fri., daylight hours. No experience necessary.

724-258-8498

MOTOR ROUTE DRIVER Fallowfield Twp.

- Mon.-Sat.
- 69 Customers
- No Collections
- 1½ hours daily

724-684-2647

NOTICE TO READERS:

While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate *the background of* any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

Program Specialist

Diversified Human Services, Inc. is now accepting applications for Program Specialist in the therapeutic activity center. Will coordinate and implement consumer rehabilitation plans and is responsible for daily program activities. Bachelor's degree in psychology or human services related field with two years experience with MR client population. Qualified individuals must submit resume and a letter of interest to Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 66, Charleroi, PA 15022, attention: Dept. 07171. For additional information, log on to our home page address at: www.sphs.org. Our email address is: postmaster@sphs.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Catch the Eye of people looking to buy!!!

VALLEY TOPPERS In-Column Attention Getters

Choose from the many Valley Toppers you see here for a great low price!

Call today for details!!!
724-684-5200
The Valley Independent Classifieds

1000/GENERAL

PART-TIME WORK Belle Vernon Area. 9AM-4PM. 2-4 days each week. Outside work, transportation req. Reply to Box 889 c/o The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

1015/AUTOMOTIVE

SALESPERSONS

2 experienced persons needed immediately. Call Dean Allison at
Gerry Raymond
Chrysler Jeep Dodge Subaru
724-379-7300

1025/DRIVERS

COMPANY DRIVER- Greensburg, PA. Local & OTR, competitive package. Repeat runs, CDL-A 1 yr. exp. Excellent safety record. 724-244-9718.

LIFT VAN DRIVERS & Taxi Drivers. Must have clean drivers license. Apply at Tri County Access, 1001 Meldon Ave., Donora.

Van & Bus Drivers

Matthews Bus Company seeks individuals who are people-oriented & committed to safety for Van & School Bus Driving positions. Pre-Employment drug testing & fingerprinting required. Training provided for those seeking CDL/School Bus License. For application or more information please call 412-384-8810. Matthews Bus Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

1040/MEDICAL

CNA Full/Part-time

Mon Valley Care Center accepting CNA applications for daylight, afternoon, and midnight shifts. Competitive salary, insurance benefits, vacation/holiday package, and 401K.

Join the Valley's most dynamic nursing team

Visit or Send Resumes to
Mon Valley Care Center
200 Stoops Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
or fax to
724-310-1195
EOE

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Worker with a Bachelor's Degree required and experience preferred. Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills, knowledge of long-term care industry and Medical Assistance process required. Please submit a cover letter and resume with salary history/expectations to audig@jeffersonhillsmanor.com or fax/mail to the address below.

Jefferson Hills Manor
448 Old Clairton Road
Jefferson Hills, PA 15025
Phone 412-653-1128
Fax 412-653-2330
EOE

LOOKING FOR LOVE? CHECK OUT MEETING PLACE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS

Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of

Tribune-Review Publishing Company

Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available.

Please call
412-610-6378
9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues & Wed.
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

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REAL ESTATE

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CARROLL TWP.
7+ acres, 3 bedroom Cape Cod. $125,000.

DONORA
Totally renovated with best materials, 3 bedroom 1½ bath in Cement City. Asking $69,900.

MERICO S. LIGNELLI
Real Estate • Insurance
724-258-4141
724-258-3140

CHARLEROI
Totally remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, corner lot. Immaculate! $79,900. Call Cathy Gallo at

Prudential Preferred Realty
724-929-7228

DONORA
80 Thompson Ave. $49,000. 2 story frame house with covered front & back porch, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, carport, nice residential setting. Call D&P Realty at 724-225-7275.

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

WHAT A DEAL
This 3 bedroom quality built condo sure is! Don't miss this deal. Call today. $170's.

WELCOME HOME
To this 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath home in Monessen. Finished lower level. First floor laundry. Many upgrades. $150's.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
724-929-1370

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

CALL FOR DETAILS
DONORA
1. 2 bedroom, 2 story. Living room has hardwood floors, beamed ceiling & ornate fireplace. Modern baths. Central air. Definitely Worth A Look! $34,900.
2. Well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 story. Attic could be 4th bedroom. Large rooms. All appliances & furniture stay. Seller will consider all reasonable offers. $37,999.
COMMERCIAL: Many possible uses. 3,500 sq. ft. of space. Upstairs apartment for additional income. Multi-unit potential. $59,900.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-228-2510

CALL FOR DETAILS
ROSTRAVER TWP. 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bath stunning home. Spacious rooms. 3rd floor has huge finished room. Master bedroom has large master bath. Must see! $279,421.
MONONGAHELA. Beautiful newly constructed 3 bedroom brick ranch. Corner country lot. Custom built. $219,921.
MONONGAHELA. Eloquent 3 bedroom home. Very well maintained. Secluded rear deck. Home Warranty. $179,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

LOOKING TO MOVE? REAL ESTATE EVERY SUNDAY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

TOTAL MEDIA
NEWSPAPERS
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TELEVISION
MAGAZINES
INTERNET
PENNYSAVERS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

CALL FOR DETAILS
3 BEDROOM brick Cape Cod in great area. Possible 4th bedroom or family room on lower level. Call for more details and make an offer! $75,000.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

CALL FOR DETAILS
CALL TODAY for information on the lots that we have listed for your dream house. Some are river front, some commercial, also some for developers. Prices range from $14,000 to $1,300,000.
CHARLEROI. Great investment property. Side by side duplex. Call for details. $34,900.
ELIZABETH. Cute 1 bedroom raised ranch with many updates. 20x20 outside building. Close to Rt. 51. $52,000.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON: full bath, kitchen, living area, 1 bedroom, parking. $220+ utilities, security deposit. No pets. References. 724-929-5544.

FAYETTE CITY 2 bedroom, all on one floor, remodeled, no pets, no exceptions. $350. Security, references. Call 8-5pm 724-736-0824.

PERRYOPOLIS: nice 2 bedroom. Affordable rent. Call Great Dane Realty 724-684-9600.

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

*** DONORA ***
1 Bedroom Bungalow
Clean
Nice Neighborhood
-AND-
2 Bedroom Apartment
724-746-3997

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI-large clean 1 bedroom apts., new carpet, furnished. $275-$325, 1 mo. free. David 1-888-477-9773.

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, huge rooms, very clean. Call 1-877-890-3863. $300+ utilities. 1st mo. FREE w/ security dep. & lease.

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $325-$400. Security deposit. No pets.
724-292-1189
724-396-1140

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, downtown. No pets. Security deposit, references. $300 inc. water, sewage. 724-825-1049.

CHARLEROI 2 Apts. 1 bedroom & 1 efficiency. $250-$325 water & sewage inc. 1st mo. rent & security deposit. 724-417-4118.

CHARLEROI Lookout St. Apts. 1 & 3 bedroom starting at $335+ security. Free water & sewage. Fully equipped kitchen, off-street parking, large rooms, many updates. Credit check required. 724-746-8817.

CHARLEROI up hill handsome large 1 bedroom, appliances, a/c. Some utilities included. No pets. 724-483-1321.

DONORA- efficiency apt. $275 month, everything included. Call 724-258-7182 or 724-379-9599.

DONORA- large, 2 or 3 bedroom apt. equipped kitchen. Section 8 ok. No pets. On bus line. Call 412-833-3231.

DONORA 4 rooms, bath. $375 garbage, water, sewage included. Call 724-258-7182 or 724-379-9599.

DONORA APTS.
724-379-5265
1 Bedroom Apartments
HUD Assisted For Those Who Qualify
EQUAL HOUSING

FALLOWFIELD TWP. nice 1 bedroom apt. Water, sewage & garbage incl. $295. Call 724-929-4936.

MONONGAHELA- 1 bedroom, huge, clean, appliances included. $375 plus utilities. Call 724-942-4658.

Clean that garage.

Collect the profit.
The Valley Independent
Garage Sale Package
724-684-6290

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

N.CHARLEROI- unfurnished 1 bedroom, completely remodeled. Private off-street parking. $360+ utilities. 1 month security deposit & references. No pets. Call 412-953-8062.

NEW EAGLE 1 bedroom, appliances, no pets. Security deposit. $375+ electric. Call 724-554-6534.

ROSCOE 1 bedroom 1st floor apt. $450. Utilities included. Call 724-966-2574, 724-366-9305.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security. $350 + electric. Call 412-257-0902.

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

N.BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom, newly remodeled, living room, family room, kitchen, bath, c/a, laundry facility. $600+ utilities. No pets. 724-929-8733.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

CALIFORNIA- 2 bedrooms, appliances included. $550+ utilities. Call 724-263-8640.

DONORA- rent to own, 2 bedroom. $400 per month. 724-875-9123.

DONORA- Spragg St. very clean, remodeled 2 bedroom. Basement. No pets. $400+ utilities. 724-875-4008.

FINLEYVILLE 2 story, 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ bath. $525+ utilities, security, references, no pets. 724-348-6969.

N. CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, ½ duplex. $395 per month + security. Call 724-287-4405.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, detached garage. No pets. $650+ security & references. Call 724-835-1739.

MONESSEN- 2 bedroom house. $400 month + utilities. No pets. Call 724-736-2771.

MONESSEN- 3 bedroom, w/w carpet. $420 per month plus. Call 724-872-2775.

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MONESSEN
--Routes Open--
1st, 2nd, Reed Ave.
21 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2648
****
Forest, Ontario
17 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE? CHECK OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN- 3/4 bedroom homes for rent. Move in ready. Very nice. Section 8 ok. Pets ok. 724-328-2296.

N.BELLE VERNON- 1 bedroom duplex, 2 story, completely remodeled. No pets. $450+ electric & security. 724-929-0100.

3626/HSE-RENT/OTHER

DONORA & BELLE VERNON (Westmoreland) clean single family homes for rent. Sec 8 ok. 724-322-4114.

HOUSES FOR RENT.
1. Perryopolis-3 bedroom brick, gas heat, C/A. Nice yard. $600/mo.
2. N. Belle Vernon-2 bedroom, 2 story. 2 full baths. Dining room. Very nice. $550/mo.
3. Fairhope-3 bedroom, 1 ½ baths, 1 car garage. Near Marion/Belmar Schools. $750/mo.

*No pets. Credit check, security deposit and first month rent required.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
724-929-1370

3700/COMMERCIAL RE

MODERN OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE
BELLE VERNON
719 Broad Ave., air conditioning, 1,500 sq. ft., off street parking.
MONONGAHELA
215 Chess St. 2,000 sq. ft. Call 412-257-0902.

PERRYOPOLIS- Office/Retail for Rent. Great location. Affordable. Call Great Dane Realty 724-684-9600.

STOREROOM on 1st Floor
Includes 2 apts. upstairs with separate utilities
LOCATED:
McKean Ave., Charleroi
$19,500
724-366-4946
or 724-438-4461

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

FLORAL & Gift Shop for sale. Busy, great location, reasonable. Or purchase all contents inc. coolers. Reply to Box 888 c/o The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

MONESSEN CARRIER WANTED
1st St. 400's
2nd St. 400's
10's-200's Reed Ave.
21 Customers
No Collections
Call 724-684-2648
or 724-684-2600

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MONESSEN CARRIERS WANTED
19 Papers
Monday-Saturday
Eastgate High Rise
Parente Blvd.
No Collections
Call
724-684-2648

MONESSEN MOTOR ROUTE OPEN
1 Hour A Day
Mon.-Sat.
Approx. $270 A Month
No Collecting
Call
724-684-2647 or
724-684-2648

MONESSEN ROUTES OPEN
Athalia, Dennis
31 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

ROUTES AVAILABLE
Tribune Review
✓ California
✓ Bentleyville
✓ Ellsworth Area
Call Jason at
724-272-4437 or
Bill at 412-523-2306

1120/SITUATIONS

LINDA & LOUISE'S Cleaning Experienced. Excellent references. Reasonable rates. Call 724-483-2737.

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

ESTATE NOTICE

Letters of Administration on the Estate of Robert B. Saxon, a/k/a Robert Saxon, late of Monessen, Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make *immediate payment*, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to:

Marsha Hanam,
Administratrix
14 Elm St.
Monessen, PA 15062
1/11,18,25

Tonarelli, Geno
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of GENO TONARELLI, late of Carroll Township, Washington County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Washington County, notice is *hereby given to all persons* indebted to said Estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to:

Geraldine Tonarelli,
Executrix
423 Graham Street
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Herman J. Bigi, Esquire
Bigi & Walsh
337 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
1/4,11,18

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Washington County Housing Authority will receive separate sealed bids for a single prime contract with the Authority for Roof Replacement/Siding/Trim at Lincoln Terrace and Jollick Manor, Washington, PA.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the Washington County Housing Authority, U.S. Government Bonds, or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bids will be received no later than 11:00 A.M. prevailing time, Tuesday, February 12th, 2008 at the Washington County Housing Authority, 100 Crumrine Tower, Franklin St., Washington, PA at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be held by the Housing Authority for a period of not to exceed 60 days prior to contract award.

A *non-mandatory* Pre-Bid Meeting will be held in the Rev. Davis Community Room at Jollick Manor on January 29th, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. prevailing time.

Proposal forms and a complete set of bid Construction Documents may be obtained by submitting a written request to the offices of Mavrovic Architects P.C., 5401 Walnut St., Pittsburgh, Pa 15232, 412/687-1500 or fax to 412/687-7909. A non-refundable fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00) includes the cost of printing, handling and postage. If overnight shipping is specifically requested, an additional non-refundable fee of $30.00 is required. Plans and specifications are also on file at:

F.W. Dodge Corp.
600 Waterfront Dr.
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Builders Exchange of Pgh.
1813 N. Franklin St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

The work to be performed under this contract is a Section 3 Project under provisions of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, and must, to the greatest extent feasible, provide opportunities for training and employment for lower-income residents of the project and contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to business concerns which are located in, or owned by, Washington County residents. Particular attention is directed to requirements of Executive Order 11246, 11625 and 12138, as well as Section 3 requirements, as set forth in the Specifications.

The Washington County Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any informalities in the bidding.

STEPHEN K. HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1/11

2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Monessen will receive bids for the 2007 Demolition and Site Clearance, Phase I Project, until 9:00 A.M. (prevailing local time) on the 30th day of January, 2008, at the City of Monessen, Municipal Building, 100 Third Street, Monessen, Pennsylvania 15062. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 9:00 A.M. (prevailing local time) on the 30th day of January, 2008, at the City of Monessen, Municipal Building, 100 Third Street, Monessen, PA.

The project consists of demolishing thirteen (13) primary structures and associated garages, backfilling and foundation, clearing all trees and brush, and grading the sites to match adjacent contours.

Copies of the Bidding Forms, Specifications and other Contract Documents will be on file and open to public inspection at the offices of the City of Monessen.

Copies of the contract documents may be obtained at the offices of the City of Monessen by depositing $30.00 payable to W.E.C. Engineers, Inc. Deposits for contract documents are not refundable.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of Monessen, negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and an acceptable surety, in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total of bid for construction shall be submitted with each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that the contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, age, religion, sex or national origin; and that the Resident Employment and Training Requirements be observed.

The Contractor must comply with the Minority Enterprise Plan for the City of Monessen.

The City of Monessen reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Monessen for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the date of the opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

CITY OF MONESSEN
By: Rosalie Nicksich
City Clerk
1/11,14,21

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2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Washington County Housing Authority will receive separate sealed bids for a single prime contract with the Authority for Demolition of one multi-unit building at Frederick Terrace, Fredericktown, PA.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the Washington County Housing Authority, U.S. Government Bonds, or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Bids will be received no later than 11:00 A.M. prevailing time, Tuesday, February 12th, 2008 at the Washington County Housing Authority, 100 Crumrine Tower, Franklin St., Washington, PA at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids will be held by the Housing Authority for a period of not to exceed 60 days prior to contract award.

A *non-mandatory* Pre-Bid Meeting will be held in the Community Room at Frederick Terrace on January 29th, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. prevailing time.

Proposal forms and a complete set of bid Construction Documents may be obtained by submitting a written request to the offices of Mavrovic Architects P.C., 5401 Walnut St., Pittsburgh, Pa 15232, 412/687-1500 or fax to 412/687-7909. A non-refundable fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00) includes the cost of printing, handling and postage. If overnight shipping is specifically requested, an additional non-refundable fee of $30.00 is required. Plans and specifications are also on file at:

F.W. Dodge Corp.
600 Waterfront Dr.
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Builders Exchange of Pgh.
1813 N. Franklin St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

The work to be performed under this contract is a Section 3 Project under provisions of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, and must, to the greatest extent feasible, provide opportunities for training and employment for lower-income residents of the project and contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to business concerns which are located in, or owned by, Washington County residents. Particular attention is directed to requirements of Executive Order 11246, 11625 and 12138, as well as Section 3 requirements, as set forth in the Specifications.

The Washington County Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or waive any informalities in the bidding.

STEPHEN K. HALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1/11

Shopping for a new Home?

"Use our Classifieds for the right one."
THE Valley INDEPENDENT
Where the Mon Valley makes their choice.

4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS 4100/PERSONALS

FIND IT FIRST IN THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Service Directory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES IN THE MID-MON VALLEY

AIR DUCT CLEANING
TRI COUNTY Air Duct Cleaning. Duct work cleaned & sanitized. Free video est. 724-483-3411.

APPLIANCES
WES'S Used Appliances
90 Day Warranty
$75 & Up
724-529-2863

APPLIANCE PARTS
CHARLEROI SWEEPER
vacuums - repairs - parts.
618 Fallowfield Ave. 724-483-3397.

AUCTION SERVICE
STRICKLER'S Auction Service. Estates or consignments. 724-326-4050. Buy or sell.

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS
GRECO'S Automotive Services PA Enhanced emission testing, remanufacture used motors & trans. installed, head gaskets, clutches, computer diagnostic major auto repair. Insured. 724-938-2911, 800-640-2902. ASE Certified.

WEIDMAN TRANSMISSIONS
Import Specialist, Domestic, heavy equipment & Allison Trucks
Call Jim 412-384-4822.

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BUILDING MATERIALS
RAILROAD TIES
All Grades & Sizes
Call 724-489-1180

BUILDING /REMODELING
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2030/MEETING NOTICES

MEETING NOTICE

The Southwest Regional Police Board will hold its regular monthly meetings for the 2008 calendar year on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 P.M. as follows: January, February, May, June, September, and October at the Belle Vernon Borough Municipal Building at 10 Main Street, Belle Vernon, PA 15012. March, July and November at the Newell Borough Building at 41½ Second Street, Newell, PA 15466 and April, August and December at the Long Branch Borough Building at 440 Mount Tabor Road, Coal Center, PA 15423.

Lynn Flower
Recording Secretary
Southwest Regional Police Board
1/11

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2004 Ford Ranger 4X4
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2003 Ford Ranger 4X4 (Certified)
2003 Ford Focus ZX5
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2030/MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE

The BOROUGH OF STOCKDALE, Washington County, Pennsylvania, intends to take action at a meeting of Council to be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at the Stockdale Borough Municipal Building, Locust Street, Stockdale, Pennsylvania, on an Ordinance fixing the millage of the fiscal year of 2007 at 19.00 mills for general Borough purposes. The full text of the Ordinance is on file with the Washington County Law Library and the Borough Secretary and may be examined during the business hours at the office of the Borough Secretary.

BOROUGH OF STOCKDALE
By Jean Brown
Borough Secretary
1/11

NOTICE

The BOROUGH OF SPEERS, Washington County, Pennsylvania, intends to take action at a meeting of Council to be held Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at the Borough of Speers Municipal Building, 300 Phillips Street, Charleroi, Pennsylvania, on an Ordinance fixing the millage of the fiscal year of 2008 at 20.00 mills for general Borough purposes. The full text of the Ordinance is on file with the Washington County Law Library, and the Borough Secretary and may be examined during the business hours at the office of the Borough Secretary.

BOROUGH OF SPEERS:
By Helen T. Cunningham
Borough Secretary
1/11

NOTICE

THE ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD HAS SET THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008 AND JANUARY 2009.

FEBRUARY 13, 2008
MARCH 12, 2008
APRIL 9, 2008
MAY 14, 2008
JUNE 11, 2008
JULY 9, 2008
AUGUST 13, 2008
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008
OCTOBER 8, 2008
NOVEMBER 12, 2008
DECEMBER 10, 2008
JANUARY 14, 2009

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M., CURRENT TIME, AT THE ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 201 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, BELLE VERNON, PA 15012.

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD
JOHN BEDELL, SECRETARY
1/11

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2030/MEETING NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Police Pension Fund of the City of Monongahela will hold a Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. in Council Chambers, 449 West Main Street, Monongahela, PA.

Brian Tempest,
Secretary
Monongahela Police Pension Fund
1/11

PUBLIC NOTICE
FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP

Fallowfield Township Board of Supervisors has scheduled their monthly meetings for 2008, at the Municipal Building, 9 Memorial Drive, Charleroi, PA on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Agenda meetings will be held the Monday before the Regular Meeting.

Planning Commission meeting will be held as needed.

Bonnie Mraz
Secretary
1/11

4000/ADOPTION

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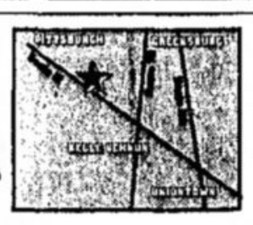

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